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Daewoo Co. assigns 69.65M shares in LaoLao Resort. PAGE 3

Upward trend in fuel prices continues. PAGE 4

'Airport rates will increase'

» Rota, Tinian will be hit the hardest

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority fears that the island of Tinian and Rota will be hit the hardest by the U.S. Congress' recent decision not to expand the Essential Air Service program to the CNMI.

According to CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the impact of the U.S. Congress' decision will be felt hardest by the communities of Rota and Tinian as CPA is running out of options in terms of subsidy and funding.

"Expanding the EAS to in-

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How the Trump fake electors scheme became a 'corrupt plan,' according to the indictment

By FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)— The role that fake slates of electors played in Donald Trump's desperate effort to cling to power after his defeat in the 2020 election is at the center of a four-count indictment released against the former president Tuesday.

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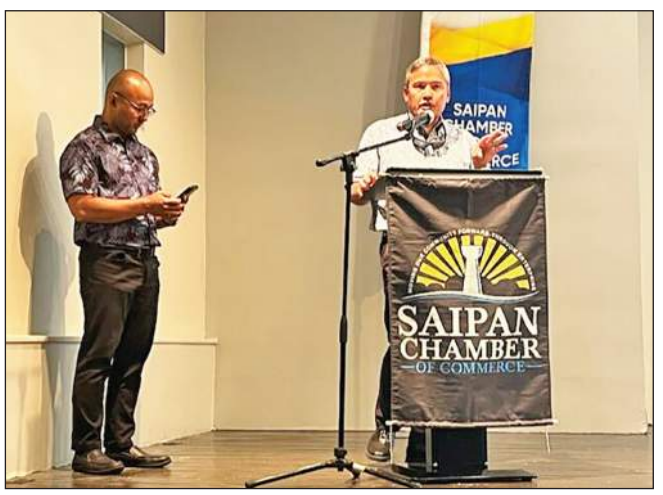
Touchback needs a Hail Mary pass—Chamber



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of director Alex Sablan updates the membership about their recent trip to Washington, D.C. during yesterday's general membership meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. At his right is Chamber president Joe C. Guerrero.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce acknowledged that nothing short of a miracle will delay the touchback provision of the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act or

See TOUCHBACK on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

58

REBUILD SHIFTS TO HIGH GEAR AT NMC NMC

Northern Marianas College will officially break ground for its flagship building, the Student Center, today, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023. The NMC Student Center will be a prominent structure along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero with an innovative design that is student-centric, energy-efficient, and culturally tied to the CNMI's indigenous roots. The building will be three stories high with approximately 45,000 square feet of enclosed space to house a double-height multi-purpose hall, student services, dining, library, bookstore, and office spaces. The NMC Student Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Supplemental funds are also provided by the Office of Insular Affairs – Capital Improvement Projects. The photo is an artist's perspective of the north facade of the Student Center.

Woman whose probation had been revoked seeks compassionate release

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A woman who is currently in prison for violating her probation again has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to be released on compassionate grounds, citing her three minor children that need her to take care of them.

Vickilyn Ramonica Manglona Teregeyo, whose probation was revoked after she admitted to using methamphetamine while on probation, has filed a motion with the District Court for the NMI asking for

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INSIDE

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Since 2014, Micronesian Air Cargo Services has grown to become so much throughout the years.
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Donald Trump is indicted on felony charges for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election.
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Lizzo has been sued by three former dancers who accuse her of sexual harassment.
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Local

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Over 200 participants join the Northern Marianas Island Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for Day 2 of their 2023 Advocacy Academy yesterday at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

NMICADSV Advocacy Academy draws 200-plus participants

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Island Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence concluded their two-day 2023 Advocacy Academy yesterday at the Saipan World Resort with a fully packed Royal Taga Hall and the organizers ecstatic at the successful turnout.

The conference drew an estimated 200 participants, with a mix of students, community members, government departments, agencies, and non-profits who all came not only from Saipan but also from Tinian and Rota.

The conference covered a variety of topics concerning domestic violence and sexual assault, from the basics of advocacy, confidentiality, trauma informed care response, to the "how to's" on working with, and servicing victims and survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Many participants involved found the conference eye opening and essential to not only their public service, but also their personal role in the community.

"…The Advocacy Academy [was] very enriching and beneficial for departments, especially our own, the Department of Public Safety, because we do respond to sexual assault and domestic violence cases," said police detective Jhaneeka Atalig "So it's really informative and this training serves as a great tool, and resource for us to use when we do respond."

CNMI Women's Affairs Office member Joannie Laniyo said, "I feel that it is relevant and efficient information for the individuals of the CNMI to learn more about since many of our people here have gone through so much, and many may not know the cause of their trauma. …I've learned so much in yesterday's session pertaining domestic violence; and was shocked to find out that domestic violence can come in different ways, such as emotional, cyber, financial and more."

NMCADSV executive director Maisie Tenorio said the academy participants were all actively engaged. "It's going great. I think our first day went very well, we had a lot of positive feedback about Advocacy Academy. I mean, it's a lot of difficult topics and difficult conversations, and its just heavy spending whole day talking about domestic violence and sexual assault, so I know that everyone that participated had a lot weighing on them at the end of the day yesterday."

Tenorio shared that she was encouraged to see the response of participants and that they were ready and willing to learn. "Our very first session was about temporary restraining orders, and we had just a wonderful amount of questions. To me, that signifies that everybody in the room really wants to do their part to help victims and survivors. They really want to increase their understanding and improve their skills in terms of being out in the community and serving victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. …We're building this community where everyone is out there to help create a safer CNMI."

Yesterday's session was the last for the conference and covered how to work with diverse survivors, understanding the neurobiology of trauma, consent, the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault and mental health, temporary restraining orders, safety planning resources and evaluations, and NMPASI programs and services and disability sensitivity.

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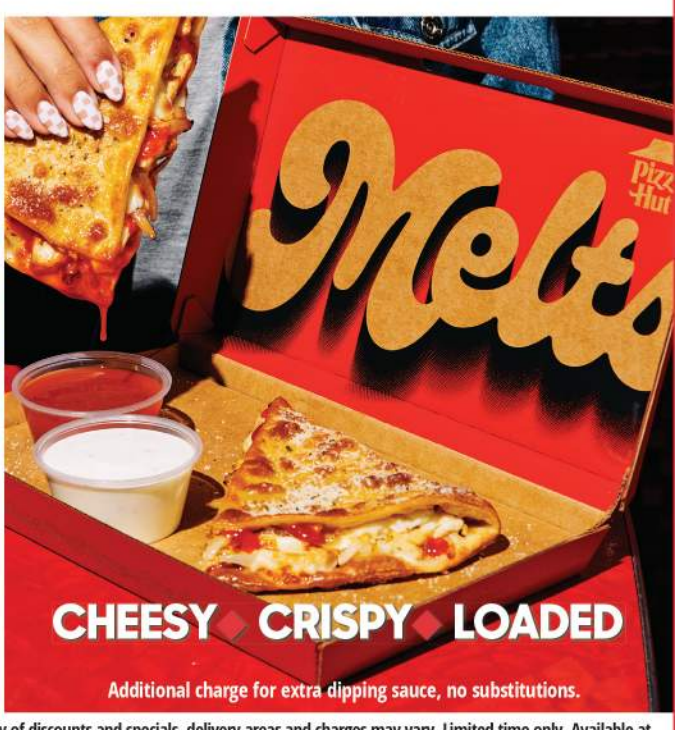

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Daewoo Co. assigns 69.65M shares in LaoLao Resort

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Daewoo Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., a subcontractor in the construction of the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman, has assigned its 69.65 million shares of Saipan Laulau Development Inc. in the resort, to Laulau Holdings Star Co. Ltd.

Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos approved the assignment of lease agreement on July 26, 2023.

DPL assessed $2,500 in fee for processing the agreement.

Daewoo Engineering chief executive officer Jung Wan Baek and Laulau Holdings Star CEO Chan Young Park signed the agreement last month.

According to the agreement, Daewoo Engineering, a Korean corporation, assigned its shares to Laulau Holdings Star, also a Korean corporation, in exchange for $1 and "other good and valuable consideration."

Daewoo Engineering warrants that it has clear title to the stock standing in its name on the books of Saipan Laulau Development Inc., a corporation organized and operating in the CNMI.

Laulau Holdings Star acknowledges that its purchase of the shares constitutes an "assignment" pursuant to the lease agreement by and between DPL and SLDI, executed on Dec. 6, 2007.

Laulau Holdings Star agrees that the provisions of the 2007 lease agreement shall bind the corporation, and assumes due performance of the obligation of SDLI, as lessee of public land in Kagman.

The documents did not indicate the reason for entering into the assignment agreement.

The original lease for the Kagman property was given to S.C. Properties (Saipan) Inc. in October 1989. The lease on 200 hectares of public lands was then assigned to SLDI in August 1993.

In 2000, lawmakers voted unanimously to grant up to 40 years lease (or a 15-year extension to the original lease agreement) on the public lands being occupied by Laolao Bay Golf Resort, to pave the way for its expansion plans.

Citing a loss of about $50 million, SLDI then sold the company to United Micronesian Development Association.

In 2007, Kumho Asiana Group, the mother company of Asiana Airlines, acquired the resort from UMDA. Kumho Asiana Group then reportedly acquired Daewoo Engineering.

House bill outlines exclusions to those that can use OAG services

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed Friday a bill that would exclude public corporations and autonomous agencies from obtaining the services of the Office of the Attorney General and authorize then to hire private lawyers.

With 17 House members present voting "yes" and Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan) abstaining, House Bill 23-46, House Substitute 1 now goes to the Senate for action.

Reps. Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent, but excused from the special session.

Rep. Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan) introduced H.B. 23-46 last May 10. The legislation was referred to the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan).

When the JGO Committee sought comments on the bill from the OAG, Attorney General Edward Manibusan found the proposed legislation to be unconstitutional.

The committee amended the legislation to address Manibusan's concerns. The committee includes language that makes the legislation effective after the ratification of House Legislative Initiative 23-01 by the voters of the CNMI. Without such initiative, the legislation shall not be in effect.

Authored by Rep. Aldan, House Legislative Initiative 23-1 seeks to amend Article 3 Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution, specifically the provision stating that that AG provides legal advice to public corporations and autonomous agencies.

Aldan stated in the legislative Initiative that an amendment would require public corporations and autonomous agencies to hire private counsel, thereby avoiding conflict of interest and potential legal risks.

Aldan said the need for this amendment is underscored by recent experiences where public corporations faced legal action, but were at a disadvantage as they were represented by the OAG, which is also tasked with representing the interests of the Executive Branch.

The JGO Committee also sought comments from the Micronesian Legal Services and the CNMI Supreme and Superior Courts, but to date they did not provide comments.

According to the JGO Committee report on the bill, it finds that pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, the way it is currently written, can be quite problematic since the AG has the power and duty to act as counsel to all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth, including public corporations, except the Marianas Public Land Trust.

The committee finds that the concerns may arise from such language is the potential conflict of interest when the OAG has to provide counsel to public corporations and autonomous agencies.

The committee notes that when public corporations/autonomous agencies are in disputes with an executive department, agency, or instrumentality, both potential agencies will be represented by the OAG.

Due to such potential circumstances, the JGO Committee finds that it would be appropriate to relieve public corporations and autonomous agencies from seeking legal services from the OAG and allow for them to seek a private counsel to avoid potential conflict of interest situations.

The committee finds that cognizant of the governing body and autonomous power of the public corporations and autonomous agencies, it would be of great benefit to the CNMI if these agencies were to exercise such autonomy in seeking an independent private counsel.

House committee, Aldan work on budget shortfall

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee met yesterday with Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan to address the shortfall in the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget for Tinian.

Also at the meeting were Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita, and Office of Management and Budget special assistant Virginia Villagomez.

When asked about it later, committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said they talked mainly about American Rescue Plan Act money for Tinian to fund employees not listed on the governor's budget submission for fiscal year 2024. Yumul said they will resume their meeting tomorrow, Friday, when they allocate the funds.

"We have the provision done. Only the allocation on the schedule is still being worked on," he said, referring to his draft budget bill.

Upward trend in fuel prices continues

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI continues to see an upward trend in fuel prices with another increase yesterday—the third so far seen within a month.

Early yesterday evening, Mobil Oil Marianas raised its prices by 15 cents, making it the oil company's second increase in less than a week and its third time in just one month.

As of press time, Shell Marianas had yet to increase its prices but is expected to do so today.

With the most recent increase, Mobil's Extra fuel went up from $5.36 per gallon to $5.51. Meanwhile, Supreme fuel went up from $5.81 per gallon to $5.96 while diesel is now $5.83 per gallon.

The recent increase in fuel prices follow a string of increases in the last month.

The first increase was seen back on July 19, after more than two months of steady fuel prices, with Mobil Oil Marianas breaking the streak with a 15-cent increase. Regular fuel went up from $5.11 per gallon to $5.26 per gallon.

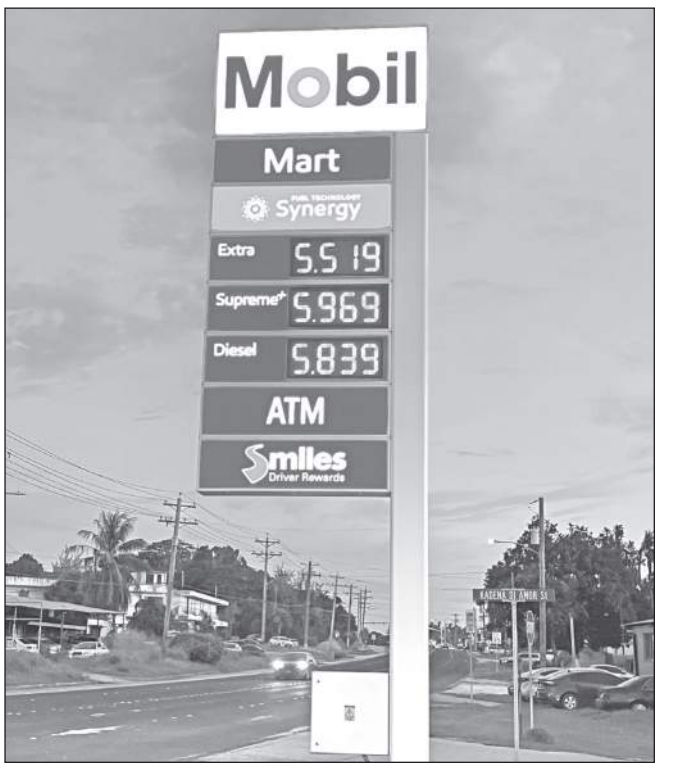
Less than a week after, on July 25, Shell Marianas surprised the CNMI community when it took the lead in implementing a 10-cent increase that brought regular fuel prices up from $5.26 per gallon to $5.36.

Community members were shocked to see prices up again yesterday evening.

"Suddenly I'm brought back to post-lockdown days when gas shot up exponentially. Gas has been steadily rising the past few weeks and I expect it will only continue to do so as summer ends," said a 28-year-old motorist.

A gas attendant said he was also shocked by the latest increase.

"Usually we get news of an increase like morning or afternoon. This was unexpected for us too. I don't know if gas will continue to rise but I hope it doesn't," he said.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
A Mobil gas station display shows the new fuel prices.

HOW

From page 1

The third criminal case into Trump details, among other charges, what prosecutors say was a massive and monthslong effort to "impair, obstruct, and defeat" the federal process for certifying the results of a presidential election, culminating in the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The 45-page indictment states that when Trump could not persuade state officials to illegally swing the election in his favor, he and his allies began recruiting a slate of fake electors in seven battleground states—Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin—to sign certificates falsely stating that he, not Democrat Joe Biden, had won their states.

While those certificates were ultimately ignored by lawmakers, federal prosecutors say it was all part of "a corrupt plan to subvert the federal government function by stopping Biden electors' votes from being counted and certified."

Here's a deeper look at how the scheme unfolded, according to the indictment:

From 'legal strategy' to 'corrupt plan'

The fake electors plan began in Wisconsin, prosecutors allege, with a memorandum from Kenneth Chesebro, an attorney who was assisting the Trump campaign at the time with legal challenges.

Cheseboro wrote the memo in mid-November 2020 that advocated for Trump supporters in Wisconsin to meet and cast their votes for him, in case the campaign's litigation in the state succeeded.

But less than a month later, "in a sharp departure," a new memo was issued that called for expanding the strategy to other key states, creating slates of "fraudulent electors" for Trump.

The end goal, according to prosecutors, was "to prevent Biden from receiving the 270 electoral votes necessary to secure the presidency on January 6."

Recruiting and retaining fake electors

After the plan was expanded to include six states, Trump and attorney John Eastman asked Ronna McDaniel, the chair of the Republican National Committee, to help the Trump campaign recruit the electors in the targeted states.

The two men, according to prosecutors, "falsely represented" to McDaniel that the electors would only be used if Trump's lawsuits against the election succeeded. McDaniel agreed to help.

As the Trump electors prepared for a Dec. 14 gathering, when state electors met at respective capitols to certify the electoral results, some had concerns. The fake electors in Pennsylvania told Giuliani and other Trump advisers on a conference call that they had reservations about signing a certificate that would present them as legitimate electors for the state.

TOUCHBACK

From page 1

Public Law 115-218 that takes effect at the end of the current fiscal year in September 2023.

Speaking before members of the Chamber during yesterday's general membership meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, board of director Alex Sablan said a delay in the touchback rule could only happen if an amendment that provides this successfully piggybacks on the National Defense Authorization Act.

"Touchback is something that's an 11th hour Hail Mary call with the NDAA. There's a slight chance there could be an amendment made. That is the only bill that we're going to be able to jump on this fiscal year," he said.

Sablan, who chairs the Chamber's Tourism and Commerce Committee, recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. where their group lobbied Congress for a delay in the touchback rule, along with other pertinent issues affecting the CNMI. He was accompanied by Chamber president Joe C. Guerrero, Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds as well as representatives of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter, among others.

"I wish we had better answers for you about what touchback is going to do and mean. At the end of the day, we are waiting on calls from the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. ...We've written letters to our governor and [Delegate Gregori Kilili C. Sablan] on several different issues that we could possibly tackle," he said.

Ultimately, Sablan's advice to businesses with foreign workers, or CW-1, affected by the touchback issue is to prepare as if it's a foregone conclusion.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

AIRPORT

From page 1

clude the CNMI has been an issue that we've been working on for years. CPA saw an opportunity to once again advocate for the inclusion of the CNMI when H.R. 3935 was before the U.S. Congress. We knew it was a tough sell given the climate in Congress. But just because it's hard doesn't mean we don't try, knock on doors, and speak up. The fact is, airport rates will increase in the absence of a direct subsidy. The communities which will be hit the hardest with the increase are the communities of Rota and Tinian, who rely on air transportation to access basic health care services," she said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP), in conjunction with CPA, have pushed hard for the inclusion of the CNMI on the list of territories and small communities that are eligible for the U.S Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service program. However, the U.S. Congress has since determined that given the current political momentum, reestablishing EAS eligibility for the Marianas airports is not a viable option at this time. Had the CNMI been included in the EAS, that would have allowed CPA to tap federal funds to subsidize some of the cost of interisland travel. Without that subsidy, interisland travel becomes prohibitive.

King-Hinds explained that the subsidy that could have been provided through the EAS program could have greatly helped sustain interisland air-service in the CNMI once airport rates inevitably increase.

"We don't need subsidy if our tourism industry is thriving. Unfortunately, we are nowhere close to recovery and the policy to eliminate one of the biggest market is having a real impact not just on the ports but to the economy in general. These issues are all intertwined and what we are focused on is having conversations with members of Congress and federal partners, to include Department of Defense, about giving the CNMI a hand-up, not a hand-out, by collaborating to create opportunities for economic sustainability," she said.

Unfortunately, it seems as though this will not be the case for now.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, CPA previously pursued the EAS program in their efforts to obtain additional funding before the end of the fiscal year, but was found unqualified.

"CPA does not qualify for the EAS program because it is not an 'eligible place.' To be considered an 'eligible place,' the community must have received Essential Air Service between Sept. 30, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2011. The CNMI did not receive Essential Air Service between those two dates," said CPA.

In addition, CPA explained that for the CNMI to be eligible to participate in the EAS program, U.S. Congress would need to amend 49 U.S. Code section 41731 and include the CNMI as an accepted location.

"CPA has discussed EAS and its challenges with multiple CNMI officials, including Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. It is CPA's understanding that there is currently no appetite in [the] U.S. Congress to expand the EAS program," said CPA.

According to online sources, EAS is a federal program enacted to guarantee that small communities in the United States maintain commercial air service. The program's goal is to maintain a minimal level of scheduled air service to small communities that otherwise would not be profitable.

WOMAN

From page 1

compassionate release, which the U.S. government opposes.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ashley Kost argues against releasing Teregeyo, saying she has not demonstrated "compelling reason" warranting compassionate release.

According to Teregeyo's motion, she wants to be released so she could take care of her minor children. She argues that the circumstances surrounding the care for her children is compelling enough to grant her compassionate release.

"I have three [minor] children who are currently being cared for by my housekeeper who can no longer take care of them as I am unable to pay her as it is too expensive. Ultimately, the change in circumstances surrounding the care of my children qualifies as an independent extraordinary and compelling reason warranting relief," she said.

Teregeyo added that she has exhausted all administrative remedies, therefore she has brought her matter before the court.

"On May 26, I was imprisoned at the Department of Corrections [on] Saipan where I asked the DOC director to grant me compassionate release but there was no response. On June 5, while imprisoned on Saipan, I was attacked by a Corrections guard and I was sent to Honolulu Federal Detention Center. I have also requested compassionate release from the warden but there has been no response," she said.

According to court documents, Teregeyo was initially sentenced to an imprisonment term of one year and 18 days followed by a three-year term of supervised release, with specific conditions that included not to use a controlled substance and to submit to drug tests, among others.

On Sept. 24, 2020, a petition for summons was filed against her for tampering with a sweat patch, submitting a diluted urine sample, and testing positive for the use of methamphetamine on two occasions.

Instead of revoking her supervised release, the court admonished Tergeyo and amended her conditions. Since then, there were several more instances when Teregeyo was found violating her probation conditions, including positive drug tests and submitting diluted urine sample for testing.

Tergeyo's probation was finally revoked on March 26, 2021, and she was ordered to serve three months imprisonment, followed by 33 months of supervised release.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI, USA Fanter settle long-running dispute

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and USA Fanter Corp. have reached a settlement and have officially resolved the yearslong breach of contract lawsuit that resulted in a court-sanctioned receivership.

Last July 19, IPI and USA Fanter entered into a settlement agreement with the U.S. District Court for the NMI where they agreed to fully and finally resolve their breach of contract case. The settlement included all amounts due or claimed pursuant to the amended judgment, any pending or potential petitions for attorney's fees, costs, or interest in the case in consideration of a final payment in the amount of $251,581.44, which was tendered in payment to USA Fanter's counsel.

"While the parties acknowledge that, due to the establishment of the limited receivership, the court may not wish to close this case, all claims made by USA Fanter in this case have been satisfied," states the agreement.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Thompson Law Office LLC to promptly release the amount of $251,581.44 from its Client Trust Account to USA Fanter.

According to court documents, USA Fanter sued IPI for alleged failure to pay the full amount due to the plaintiff under their construction contract for labor and materials provided to build IPI's casino property in Garapan.

The lawsuit stated that IPI had paid USA Fanter $300,000 only and the unpaid balance due was not less than $2,089,345.28.

The judge issued a final judgment in favor of USA Fanter.

On May 26, 2021, the court entered an amended judgment in favor of USA Fanter, and against IPI, in the amount of $2,089,345.28, plus pre- and post-judgment interest, and costs.

On Jan. 4, 2022, the court issued an order staying the judgment, based on IPI posting an appeal bond in the amount of $2,450,000 to secure the judgment pending its appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

On Dec. 7, 2022, the district court ordered the release of the appeal bond to Thompson Law LLC's Client Trust Account.

USA Fanter, in turn, asked the Ninth Circuit for an award of attorney's fees and costs in connection with IPI's appeal.

JKPL says thanks for successful Japanese exchange program

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eleven students from Japan and six students from the CNMI came together last July 27, 2023, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library expressed its appreciation yesterday for the successful completion of its Japanese exchange program, which brought together 11 students from Japan and six students from the CNMI last July 27, 2023.

The students participated in a variety of activities, which included the following: Chamorro read aloud; library tour focusing on the Pacific Collection; do-it-yourself STEM activity: the science of ice cream making; dancing and a local food demonstration.

"We are grateful to the Saipan Mayor's Office for including the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in this Exchange Program," library director Erlinda C. Naputi said. "This program was a great opportunity for our students to learn about each other's cultures and to make new friends. We hope that this program will continue in the future."

Special thank you to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Northern Marianas Library Association for sponsoring this event.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant. ***(PR)***

OIA awards RMI $5.22M in TAP grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $5,218,185 in fiscal year 2023 Technical Assistance Program grant funding that will go toward supporting programs and projects to benefit the Republic of the Marshall Islands through local governments, a non-profit organization, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

"We are very pleased to support several outer atoll populations with solar and water projects that will help improve lives," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "We are also providing funds to the U.S. Department of Energy as called for by Congress to monitor groundwater at Runit Dome and the Four Atoll Healthcare program, both of which are related to the nuclear legacy that we share with the Marshall Islands."

Projects and programs funded through TAP for the benefit of the RMI are as follow:

■ $2,240,225 to the RMI national government for Four Atoll Healthcare program;

■ $200,000 to the RMI Love Animals (Iakwe Menin Mour) for the Majuro SNIP project to manage the feral dog population on Majuro;

■ $200,000 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the Majuro Atoll Hydraulic Modeling Refinement Support project;

■ $150,000 to Aur Atoll Local Government for the Community Solar Energy Enhancement project;

■ $137,820 to Ailinglaplap Atoll Local Government for the Ailinglaplap Water Catchment project;

■ $111,777 to the Ebon Atoll Local Government for the Ebon Teacher Housing project;

■ $96,000 to Wotho Atoll Local Government for the Wotho Atoll Solar project; and

■ $82,363 to the RMI Environmental Protection Authority for the Water Quality Monitoring Laboratory program.

An additional $2,000,000 in TAP funding was provided to the DOE as required under Public Law 112-149, the Insular Areas Act of 2011, which directs, among other things, that DOE perform periodic radiochemical analyses of the groundwater surrounding and in the Cactus Crater Containment Structure commonly known as "Runit Dome" in Enewetak Atoll in the RMI and to report to Congress on its findings. The overall objective of this project, which remains the responsibility of DOE, is to develop and implement a long-term groundwater monitoring program for Runit Dome. ***(OIA)***

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-0016

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR IDIQ (INDEFINITE DELIVERY-INDEFINITE QUANTITY) DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, NMIAC Subchapter 140-80.1, CHCC hereby seeks the services of qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract through **RFQ23-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-0016**. These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with these rules and regulations including but not limited to Sections **140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and 140-80.1-305 Architect-Engineer Services**.

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on July 26th, 2023 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-016**.

A Pre-conference meeting will be held on August 2nd, 2023 at 9:00AM at the Preparedness Conference Room and general assembly will be at the CHCC/Public Health Entrance in front of the CHCC Gift Shop.

Inquiries regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than August 23rd, 2023.

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to **Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at cora.ada@chcc.health, no later than: 1000hrs (10am) Chamorro Standard Time on August 28th, 2023.**

/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DHS issues guidance for stateless noncitizens in US

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Homeland Security, through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, issued yesterday new guidance to assist stateless noncitizens in the United States who wish to obtain immigration benefits or have submitted other requests to USCIS.

Stateless individuals are those who are not legally considered a citizen of any country, and therefore may be denied legal identity, and struggle to access education, healthcare, marriage, and job opportunities. Individuals can be born stateless or become stateless because of discrimination, war and conflict, or changing borders and laws.

The new guidance clarifies when and how USCIS may consider a noncitizen stateless for the purpose of adjudicating immigration benefits or other requests.

"All over the world, people who are stateless live with fear and uncertainty. DHS is fully committed to addressing the global issue of statelessness and to breaking down barriers that these individuals face in the United States," said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "With this historic step, stateless individuals will be given the opportunity to apply for immigration protections and benefits for which they are eligible."

Following yesterday's release of this guidance, and with the goal of helping stateless individuals to take advantage of the opportunity, USCIS will create and implement new procedures to assist USCIS officers when assessing an individual's potential statelessness. This includes updating existing training documents on statelessness, developing more robust training procedures for officers, and setting up standard operating procedures for officers to request an internal assessment of potential statelessness where it may be relevant to an individual's application or benefit request. Specially trained USCIS personnel will provide the adjudicating officer with an advisory report clarifying how the officer might consider an individual's statelessness in making decisions about an individual's application or benefit request. This new guidance also provides examples of documentation or evidence that may help USCIS officers determine whether noncitizens may be considered stateless for USCIS purposes.

Implementing this update also will enable USCIS to gather more comprehensive and accurate data on this vulnerable group of people.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates there are approximately 218,000 stateless people residing in the United States. ***(USCIS)***

McDonald's crew member's generosity shines through

MAITE, Guam—McDonald's of Guam and Saipan proudly recognizes the extraordinary customer service provided by one of its employees, Ethan Castro, from the McDonald's of Guam Maite location.

A heartwarming experience occurred at the Maite McDonald's drive-thru on the evening of July 25, demonstrating the true embodiment of McDonald's Mission and Values.

A customer in the drive-thru experienced Castro's generosity when she realized she had forgotten her wallet at work after placing her order. Castro, a young and dedicated crew member who had only worked at the McDonald's of Maite location for four months, recognized the situation. Despite the customer not explicitly stating they couldn't pay for the full order, Castro offered to cover the rest of the order from his own pocket.

Castro said he was inclined to pay the rest of the order after noticing the customer had children. "I saw she had kids in her car and they kept saying hi to me," says Castro. "She was a bit short on her order and I saw she had kids so I took out my wallet and just paid the rest."

Castro, the oldest of 10 siblings, says his actions are motivated by him wanting to make his family proud, especially his mother, Jazmine Lujan. Castro says he also enjoys interacting with the customers and making jokes to make them laugh. "I watch people on social media helping others a lot so I wanted to do the same thing. I felt good," he said. He believes that treating customers the way the way you want to be treated is the best advice for others looking to provide the same exceptional customer service.

"Ethan has shown exemplary customer service and displays the true value of living up to the McDonald's mission and values. Please extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation and, most of all this feedback, to Ethan. He made my children very happy, and if they had the choice, they would eat McDonald's every day. McDonald's of Guam is lucky to have Ethan. Kudos to Ethan for making my experience a wonderful one, and most of all unparalleled," says the customer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's of Maite crew member Ethan Castro and Human Resources director Ashley Ayuyu.

"Ethan's extraordinary customer service is a great example for everyone in the service industry. His act of kindness and dedication to our customers is truly remarkable and we are proud to have him on our team. Thank you so much Ethan for making our customers' experiences exceptional," says vice president

Joe E. Ayuyu Jr.

In recognition of Castro's exceptional customer service and unwavering dedication, McDonald's of Guam and Saipan presented him with a gift bag included with an exclusive pin and McDonald's sweater. His actions exemplify the values that McDonald's holds dear, and he serves as an inspiration to all employees across the organization. ***(McDonald's)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev.1

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev. 1 Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing n**o later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 10, 2023,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

KFC Blowout Raffle for Parents Day

To celebrate the sometimes unsung heroes in the community, while also having a fun activity for their customers, Saipan's local KFC and Taco Bell celebrated mothers and fathers in the community with a fun Parents Blowout Raffle last July 7 at their main location in Chalan Kanoa.

Two winners, Mona Deleon Guerrero, and Merly Dela Cruz, took home the grand prizes, each worth $800, or a combination of $1,600 for both. One prize was a brand-new washing machine, and the other prize a brand new recliner chair and a 32-inch smart TV.

The raffle promo period begun last May 12, 2023. From that date customers could get raffle tickets for every purchase of $35 at the restaurant, until the deadline on July 6, 2023. The raffle drawing was held the next day.

According to KFC and Taco Bell Restaurant manager Yole Aldan, the raffle was a celebration giveaway combining both a Fathers' Day gift and Mothers' Day gift as a prize, on the month where parents are celebrated. She shared that it had been one of the ways they could give back to customers and the whole team was excited to do it. She also wanted to thank the winners and all their customers for supporting KFC and Taco Bell.

National Parents Day is annually celebrated each July, and this year, fell on July 23, 2023. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

CHRYSTAL MARINO

KFC and Taco Bell staff members prepare to draw the winning tickets during their Parents' Day Blowout Raffle drawing last July 7 at their restaurant location in Chalan Kanoa.

SHS continues work to boost access to vet care in NMI

Although briefly closed while their usual clinic space at the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Shelter was utilized for the military veterinary clinic, Saipan Humane Society has been working diligently behind the scenes to increase access to veterinary care in CNMI.

"There has been limited access to veterinary care for years. The improvements we strive to make will not happen overnight, but progress is being made," said SHS founder Lauren Cabrera.

Some of the things SHS is working to bring to the community include consistent access to wellness and preventive medicine. With high rates of parvovirus, tick disease, mange, heartworm, and intestinal worms on island, prevention will be aimed at vaccines, flea/tick prevention, deworming, and rolling out a new comprehensive heartworm testing, treatment, and prevention program.

Beyond these basics, SHS is also working hard to develop relationships with on and off-island labs to allow for more advanced diagnostics such as bloodwork and biopsies of tumors. "We are getting there," said Cabrera. "These partnerships don't form overnight, and it takes a lot of work to develop."

Per Cabrera, SHS also hopes to expand and offer more consistent hours to the public. Currently, the primary barrier to doing this is lack of funding to hire staff. "We price our services low or at cost, so the community can afford them. Because of this, our profit margin is not high enough to support the large team that we desperately need. But we want to ensure the entire community can care for their pets," said Cabrera.

As a volunteer-run organization of three primary individuals, SHS hopes to transition to paid staff soon, expanding their team by hiring more people to assist. "We are constantly overwhelmed with calls and messages. We are doing our best with our small team, but want to offer more consistent access to care."

Additionally, another barrier faced by SHS is limited clinic space. Thanks to Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, SHS has been allowed to use the Dog Control facility during business hours. However, many patients cannot travel to the clinic or cannot come during business hours. SHS hopes to offer a solution to this soon.

SHS continues to build relationships with off-island veterinarians with hopes of multiple large-scale spay/neuter clinics each year with equipment they are purchasing from Boonie Babies Rescue, in thanks to donations from the Lynn Raulerson Trust and Lush Charity Pot. Part of SHS' mission is to address animal overpopulation, the leading cause of animal suffering in the CNMI.

For the latest updates regarding clinic hours, visit their social media pages. If you'd like to donate or assist in some way, reach out to info@saipanhumanesociety.org. ***(SHS)***

Woman sues DLNR, DFW over permits

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman has filed a complaint with the Superior Court against the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and their respective department heads over delays in issuing a clearing permit.

Alexandria Davis Steeley, through her attorney, Jeanne H. Rayphand, has filed a complaint for review of agency action, for declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, and damages against DLNR, DLNR Secretary Sylvan Igisomar, DFW, and DFW director Manny Pangelinan.

In her complaint, Steeley alleges that DLNR and DFW are withholding and unreasonably delaying the issuance of a decision on her application for a clearing permit for home construction.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Pangelinan and Igisomar but they have yet to respond.

As relief, the plaintiff is asking the court to issue a declaratory judgment stating that the defendants have unlawfully withheld and unreasonably delayed issuing final agency action on her permit application.

In addition, the plaintiff wants the court to issue a declaratory judgment stating that she is not required to obtain a DFW permit to clear her property; or alternatively order DFW to grant her a permit to clear her property.

Lastly, Steeley wants the court to award her damages suffered as a result of the defendants delaying the issuance of her permit, in an amount to be determined by the court, as well as attorney's fees.

According to the complaint, Steeley submitted her non-commercial permit application and DFW site assessment application last Feb. 10.

On March 1, the Division of Environmental Quality granted Steeley her non-commercial earthmoving and erosion control permit while DFW took about another two months to respond to her application.

"In spite of attempts to follow up the DFW application, it was not until May 4, 2023, that any written response was received," said the complaint.

On May 4, the plaintiff received an email from Pangelinan stating that DFW had sent her attorney a copy of the "Stop-Clock" order, putting a stay on the processing of her clearing permit.

The "Stop-Clock" order was dated March 31, but it was allegedly not provided to the applicant until May.

On the order, DFW claims that it did two surveys without finding any presence of an endangered species on the lot. However, DFW later did a third survey and claims to have detected one male Nightingale Reed Warbler within 50 meters of Steeley's property.

On May 5, Steeley, through her attorney, contacted Pangelinan regarding the option to discuss mitigation. However, she did not receive a response and on May 30, the plaintiff and her attorney decided to appeal the decision to Igisomar.

To date, Steeley claims the defendants have not responded nor acted upon her application and appeal.

CWA to hold Bingo Bonanza

To support more women entrepreneurs, the CNMI Women's Association will be holding a Bingo Bonanza fundraiser on Aug. 11, 2023, on the second floor of the Saipan Vegas compound in Gualo Rai.

Each package will cost $50 per person and will include five patterned rounds and one jackpot round, with the jackpot of the night set at $1,000. Games will start at 6pm but the doors will open at 5:30pm. CWA encourages and invites members of the community to join in the fun, while supporting the cause and the aspiring women entrepreneurs in the Marianas.

People can buy tickets or package at Sip and Smile in Gualo Rai or at the CWA office on Capitol Hill.

For more information contact Jessy Loomis at 402-604-0729, Linda at 670-788-4566 or Sharina at 670-483-1985. You may also check out their website at cnmiwomen.org or follow CWA on Facebook and Instagram @cnmiwomen. Also check out their YouTube page @cnmiwomen6768.

The association is a non-profit organization with a vision to see women fully engaged in the political economic, and social development of the NMI. They invite members in the community to join them in this endeavor. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun

The Biden administration's approach to economic matters is to empower Washington bureaucrats to "guide" the private sector toward outcomes the White House feels are "equitable." Never mind that government central planners have a long and accomplished record of failure and inefficiency. Or, that, in many instances, they have no idea what they're doing.

Consider the Food and Drug Administration and its army of experts.

On Jan. 1, a new federal regulation went into place that added sesame to the list of major food allergens that previously included eggs, milk, shellfish, peanuts and a few other items. Any products that include sesame—seeds or flour from the plant, for instance—must be labeled to alert consumers who may be allergic to the product. The FDA estimates that 1.5 million Americans may have a reaction to sesame, which can include shortness of breath, vomiting and diarrhea.

The intention, of course, was to make it easier for those with a sesame allergy to avoid problems. But the real-world application of the regulation has accomplished precisely the opposite.

In order to avoid running afoul of the FDA—facing fines or worse—many suppliers began adding sesame to products that otherwise didn't include it. This helps them avoid repercussions—lawsuits, government fines—for potential cross-contamination between foodstuffs that contain the ingredient and those that don't.

"What they're basically saying is, we're not going to clean the line after the sesame products are run," Jason Linde of the Food Allergy Research &Education Organization told a Chicago television station. "Instead, we're just going to add sesame flour in every single loaf of bread we make, so we don't have to clean the lines."

Needless to say, the folks at the FDA never saw such ingenuity coming. "I don't think anyone envisioned there being a decrease in the availability of products that are safe choices for sesame-allergic consumers," FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf said in a statement.

But as Eric Boehm of Reason magazine noted, "What Califf means, of course, is that no one within the FDA considered this possibility. That's a telling statement. It indicates that the FDA likely didn't do a good job of investigating how the businesses affected by its rules would respond to the placement of sesame on the federal allergens list."

Nanny Staters are now calling on federal regulators to force food processors to stop adding sesame to various items. It's highly predictable: Many federal interventions require another intervention to address the unintended consequences of the initial intervention. So far the FDA has resisted.

Rather than issue more edicts, perhaps the agency should do what it should have done in the first place: Sit down with processors to come to a reasonable solution.

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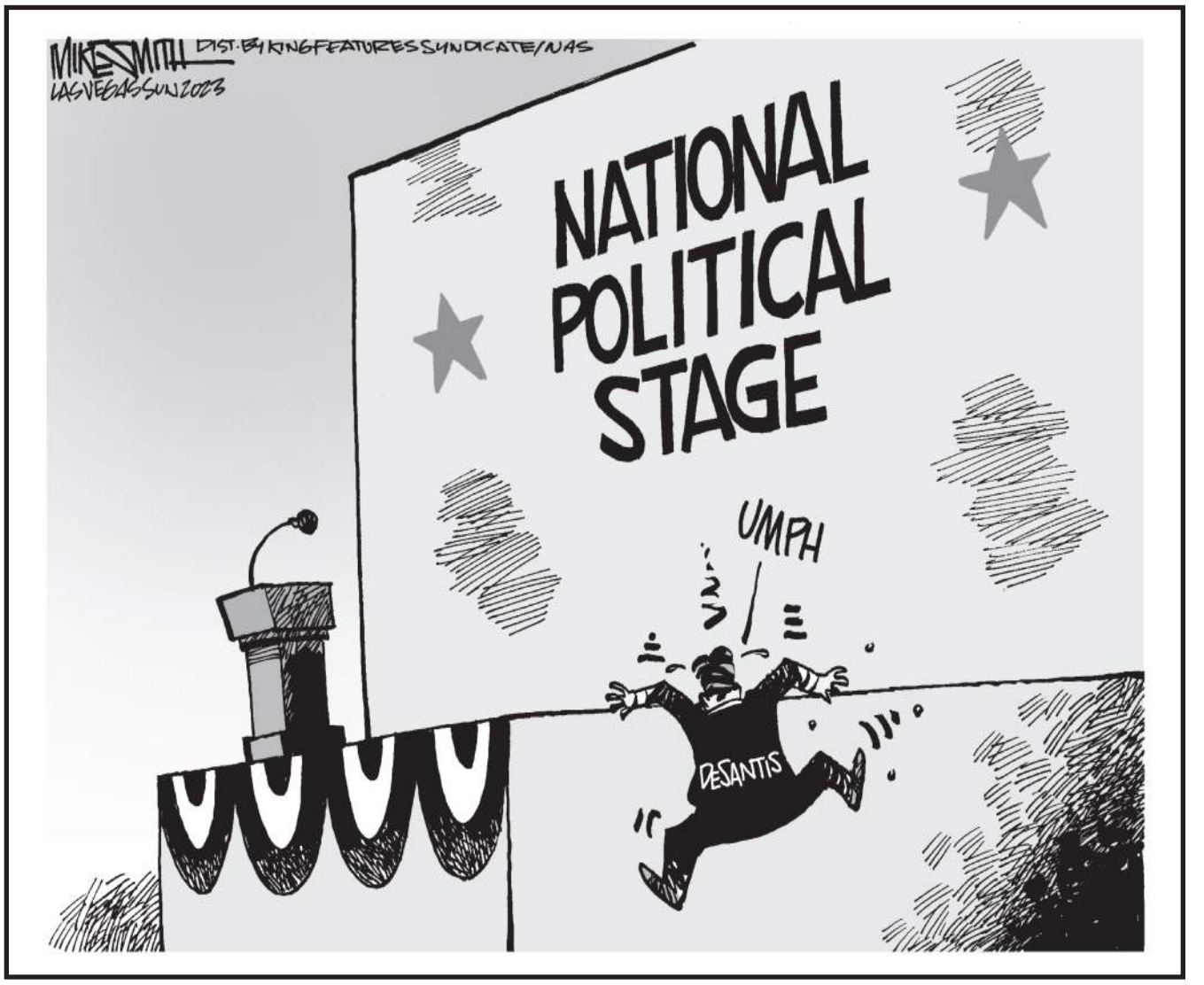


Are your elected officials principled or stubborn?

By MEGAN RAWLINS WOODS
The Fulcrum

Megan Rawlins Woods is the Senior Director of Nonpartisanship for Mormon Women for Ethical Government. She is from West Jordan, Utah. She earned a bachelor's degree in planning and resource management from Brigham Young University. She currently lives with her husband and five children in rural Utah.

As I watched the debt ceiling standoff between Republican lawmakers and President Joe Biden over the last several months, I returned to a question I have been contemplating for several years: What is the difference between taking a principled stand on an issue and being a stubborn, egotistical obstructionist?

For most of us, whether a politician seems principled or egotistical often depends on whether we agree with the stand they have taken. But with just a little effort, I believe we can get past our biases.

Our culture is built on the idea of winners and losers. In sports (naturally) and business, in academics and talent, even in romance and family—we see competition in all of it. We want to win at life. And if there are winners, there must be losers.

This cultural idea is prevalent in politics. Obviously, there are definite winners and losers in elections. However, as a government by the people, it's dangerous to approach every single topic or issue as a competition, with close to half of the country being designated "losers." This mentality creates a country of "us" versus "them," with each side claiming a monopoly on truth and morality and painting the others as deluded, ignorant, or even evil.

We need to stop viewing political opposition as an enemy to annihilate. We cannot silence the opposition. The so-called enemy is not going anywhere. In fact, they are equal participants in our democracy with valid concerns. There will always be people around us with whom we disagree. We live together. We work together. We go to school together and church together and are part of the same communities. We need to learn to govern together.

Governing together means respecting and understanding different perspectives. As President Henry B. Eyring, a leader in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said, ". . . differences can be seen as an opportunity. . . . [We can] see a difference in someone else not as a source of irritation but as a contribution."

Unfortunately, we—the voters—seem to celebrate extremism. We want to be winners. We want to vote for winners. We click on the viral links and support efforts to give ego-driven politicians more exposure. We also cheer when the opposition falters or fails. We mock their mistakes or missteps (literally, in the case of Biden's tripping or Trump's cautious descent at West Point).

Our celebration of extremism means we are supporting candidates who have no intention of collaborating to pass legislation. I have seen candidates campaign by claiming they will not go to Washington, D.C., to make friends. I have seen incumbents boast that their colleagues find them difficult to work with. We have politicians who, when they are presented with persuasive arguments, choose to dig in their heels to save face. That isn't being principled. They seem to mistake antagonistic anger with strength, as if being insolent equates to standing on principle. Stubborn grandstanding is no way to run a democracy.

This type of stubbornness creates frustration and limits effectiveness. The best legislation comes through bipartisan efforts, and those efforts require negotiation, moderation, compromise, and collaboration. When elected officials work to build bridges, relationships, and friendships, they are more likely to produce the kind of legislation that has the longest lasting positive impact.

When I am trying to determine if a politician is driven by principle or ego, some questions I ask include: Is this a pattern of behavior? Does this politician routinely stand against bipartisan legislation that has wide support? Does their opposition to the legislation guarantee them media attention or a viral clip? Have they passionately declared their opposition to or support for a piece of legislation before it has even been discussed, debated, or written? Do they seem to have a knee-jerk reaction of anger to any idea presented by the opposing party? Do they appear to relish their ability to stand in the way of bipartisan legislation?

If the answer to these questions is yes, the politician may be driven by ego and not principle.

Correcting this aspect of divisiveness will require us to begin building intellectual relationships with our political opposition. We start by humanizing them as people, trusting that they are motivated by a sincere desire for good. We look for common ground and shared principles. Only then can we focus on creating policy to enact those principles. There is a healthy tension between different ideologies, and when we learn to respect those, we can find lasting solutions. Can we learn to see differences as contributions? If so, everybody wins.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Oppenheimer' is here. Is Hollywood still afraid of the truth about the atomic bomb?

By GREG MITCHELL
Los Angeles Times

Greg Mitchell is a documentary filmmaker and the author of a dozen books, including the award-winning The Beginning or the End: How Hollywood—and America—Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb.

In 1945, Hollywood set in motion its first big-budget movie drama about the making and use of the atomic bomb. Almost immediately a competing project emerged (with a screenplay by Ayn Rand, no less). Yet for over seven decades, only two other major movie dramas about this epochal event emerged from a studio. Now that is changing with Friday's arrival of Christopher Nolan's much-anticipated "Oppenheimer," focusing on the famed lead scientist at Los Alamos who is sometimes called "the Father of the Atomic Bomb."

In the same period, Hollywood has produced far more movies centering on D-day and the defeat of Adolf Hitler. This is unsurprising, as these narratives can focus on American valor and ultimately deliver a stirring victory (and depict U.S. forces helping to liberate the concentration camps). The atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are a different story. Onscreen portrayals of the bombings have been incomplete at best, sanitized at worst—and leave open the question of whether our country will ever be able to fully reckon with these events on film.

Although Japan started war with the U.S. by bombing Pearl Harbor, Americans in the atomic attacks were the perpetrators, not the victims. The leading figures in this end game were not average G.I. Joes, but rather top-level Washington officials. The weapon was created by genius scientists, the mission carried out by elite bombing crews who faced no opposition from the enemy. Even the bomb's central role in the Japanese surrender has been hotly contested by many historians, complicating any claims it was a necessary act.

Now, in July 2023, comes "Oppenheimer." Given the fraught stories behind the three movies about the bomb that did make it to theaters, it seems unlikely that any director with less stature and box office success than Christopher Nolan could have gotten this film made.

MGM launched the first Hollywood film to address the attacks, "The Beginning or the End," in the autumn of 1945, weeks after the bombs were dropped. It was directly inspired by warnings from atomic scientists—not including Oppenheimer—about the further development of nuclear weapons.

Soon, however, both the Truman White House and Gen. Leslie R. Groves, director of the Manhattan Project, were granted script approval. They ordered dozens of revisions that barred it from questioning the attack on Japan or America's plan to continue down the nuclear path. President Truman even ordered a costly re-shoot to portray his decision to use the bomb more favorably, and MGM fired the actor playing him after the White House complained that the original performer lacked "military bearing."

Oppenheimer considered the script weak and its characterizations "idiotic." Nevertheless he signed a release, for no fee, allowing the movie to depict him as a major character and narrator. As for that rival project over at Paramount, for which Ayn Rand wrote a script she described as "a tribute to free enterprise"? After reading her first 55 pages, producer Hal B. Wallis dropped out of the race for the first A-bomb movie.

There would not be another Hiroshima-related film, "Above and Beyond," for more than six years. Once again MGM was the sponsor, and its message of justifying U.S. decisions was the same. This movie explored the story of Hiroshima from the perspective of Enola Gay pilot Paul Tibbets (played by Robert Taylor). Oppenheimer does not appear.

In the climatic scene, Tibbets releases the Hiroshima bomb and, surveying a city on fire, radios his report. "Results good," he says. Then he repeats it, this time grimly. This was not in the original script but added later, possibly to humanize the men who dropped the bomb. The real Tibbets criticized this scene, even though the film did not challenge the official narrative of the bombing in any way. Even one flicker of mixed emotions was apparently too critical.

It took nearly four decades for Hollywood to produce another film on the subject. In 1989, Roland Joffe's "Fat Man and Little Boy" appeared, but with superstar good guy Paul Newman as Gen. Groves and relative unknown Dwight Schultz as a somewhat morally conflicted Oppenheimer. Vincent Canby of the New York Times observed that with Groves expressing his views so much more persuasively than anyone else, the film was "stunningly ineffective" in expressing qualms about the bomb that Joffe stated elsewhere. This film, at least, is the only one to depict the real-life death of a scientist at Los Alamos from radiation exposure.

And that's it for studio films on the bomb—until now.

Near the close of MGM's "Above and Beyond," a reporter shouts at Paul Tibbets. Readers, he declares, "want to know how you feel" about using a city-destroying weapon. The pilot replies: "How do they feel about it?"

Hollywood has never given Americans an honest chance to confront that vital question in a world with thousands of nuclear warheads still on hair-trigger alert. Now Christopher Nolan has his chance, and his movie, which I saw at an advance screening, does provoke profound emotions about this threat today. But considering the Hollywood history, it's no shock that even he chose to spend more time on the testing of the first bomb than on what happened when it was used against two cities.

Indicted populists have a history of staying in office

By STEPHEN L. CARTER
Bloomberg Opinion

Even as more indictments of former President Donald Trump loom, 2024 voters may be leaning his way. Many recent polls have the former president running even with President Joe Biden or taking the lead. Trump's ability to weather his legal storms have led to comparisons with other politicians who have run for office, often successfully, in the midst of legal troubles. The comparisons matter—but what's most important for understanding the current moment is the dynamic that links the many examples: us-versus-them.

Let's start at the top. Many people know the story of Boston Mayor James Curley, so popular among the voters that in the 1940s he ran the city for five months from a federal penitentiary. Trump had barely taken office when the comparisons to Curley began. As the former president's legal difficulties have mounted, they've come creeping back. Small wonder. Curley, an ardent New Dealer, was thoroughly corrupt, but whenever another investigation loomed, he appealed to his supporters' sense of grievance, insisting that the Republican establishment was only going after him because he gave voice to the city's despised Irish Catholics.

Then there's Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, who resigned as mayor of Providence in 1984 after he kidnapped his ex-wife's boyfriend and burned him with a cigarette and a hot log from a fire (in front of a police officer and a judge, no less). A decade later, Cianci stood for election again. By that time, nearly two dozen of his associates had been convicted of corruption. No matter. Cianci successfully styled himself the anti-establishment candidate. According to biographer Mike Stanton, an internal poll found about a quarter of the electorate so dedicated that they'd vote for him even if, as one aide put it, "He robbed a bank at gunpoint." Cianci won.

In Gore Vidal's splendid novel 1876, a character is asked to explain the affection voters often lavish upon politicians they know to be corrupt. He replies: "Because they'd do the same thing if they dared but they don't dare because they know they'd be caught and they know he'll never be caught!"

In other words, the miscreant is seen by supporters as more scamp than scoundrel. Perhaps that's why, as Curley's biographer Jack Beatty suggests, the four-term mayor (and one-term governor) was so popular in part because of his talent for making corruption cute. He would say things like "I never took a quarter from anyone who couldn't afford it." The masses adored him. (1)

And that's the point: The masses. Popular celebration of embattled political candidates is often about class resentment: the workers versus not so much the bosses as the Brahmins. The intellectuals. Thus the belief that the candidate is "one of us"—after all, he's got the right enemies. The anthropologist Hugh Gusterson describes the feedback loop: "[U]niversity-educated cosmopolitans react to nationalist populists with condescension, which drives the latter deeper into populism, which increases the cosmopolitans' disdain for them."

Quite apart from other issues at stake in an election, the disdain is felt as a wound. Small wonder, then, that populist voters so often refuse to abandon a candidate beset by legal troubles. They're not so much voting for him as they are against the elite—the elite they think has caused both their own difficulties and his.

This dynamic isn't seen only on the right, or among the White working class. After Representative William Jefferson, a Black Louisiana Democrat, was indicted on corruption charges in 2007, inner-city voters continued to cheer him on. Wrote the Los Angeles Times: "He is treated like a rock star by his supporters, often arriving at venues to standing ovations." There, too, the public response was us-versus-them, particularly because Jefferson's legal troubles arose not long after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. Here's the New York Times: "Mr. Jefferson is not blamed for the ruined black neighborhoods, but the United States government—his prosecutor—is." To his constituents, the embattled member of Congress remained "a godly man persecuted by a racially biased government." (He lost his reelection bid.)

Other Black politicians— Marion Barry for one; Alcee Hastings for another—have won election after successfully persuading voters that the feds came after them because of their skin color. As a practical matter, they played the same card as Curley and Cianci and so many others: "They hate me because I'm one of you."

Why do such strategies work? Because of the same forces that lead large numbers to support the miscreants in the first place. The other side—whoever they are—is guilty of pretty much everything. That's how we got into this fix in the first place. They hate us; so, of course, they hate those we support.

Which brings us back to Trump.

How the former president became a working-class hero is an issue to be tackled by some sharper social analyst than I. The point is, that's how many see him. He embodies an us-against-them quality, a sense that "they" would never go after one their own this way. (Which is why Hunter Biden has proven so animating to the right.) The less voters trust the government, the less they'll trust prosecutors who accuse their hero of crimes. That's the wave Trump is riding; but he certainly didn't invent it.

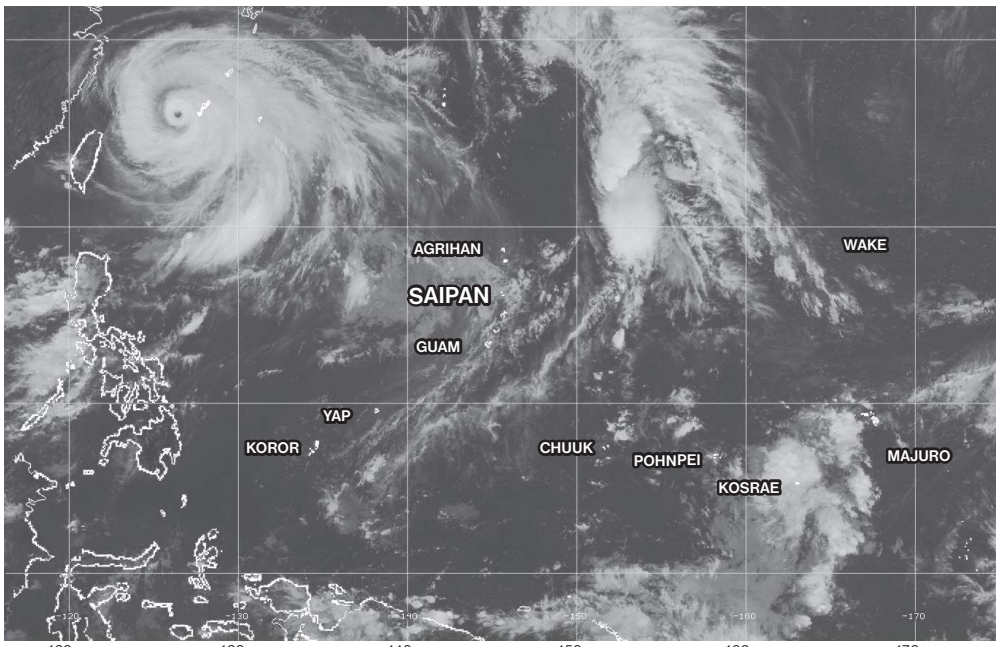
(1) The epigram "He may be a crook, but he's our crook"—often cited as having been said of Curley—seems to be a variant of a line in a 1957 column by humorist Herb Caen, who was writing about Jimmy Hoffa.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters, with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well to the east. The Ipan buoy reveals a 2 to 3 foot east swell. Computer wave model guidance shows a 3 to 4 foot west-northwest swell, for combined seas of 4 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Isolated Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	59° / 49°
Beijing	Cloudy	88° / 78°
Hong Kong	Fair	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
London	Cloudy	73° / 58°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Clear	80° / 69°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 81°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 78°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 68°
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 78°
Tokyo	Fair	92° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:12 AM	8:17 PM
Friday	-	8:15 AM	9:02 PM
Saturday	-	9:14 AM	9:44 PM
Sunday	-	10:11 AM	10:24 PM
Monday	-	11:06 AM	11:05 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:40 AM	Low Tide	1.36
7:41 AM	High Tide	2.29
3:03 PM	Low Tide	-0.36
9:56 PM	High Tide	2.16

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

MASC: Professionally fulfilling your air cargo needs

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

When you finally receive your latest electronic gadgets, designer handbags, or even toys from the U.S. mainland, thank Micronesian Air Cargo Services.

For years the air cargo company launched in 2014 has been known primarily as a provider of airmail services to the U.S. Postal Services.

However, MASC operations manager Lara R. Santos said the air cargo company has grown to become so much more throughout the years.

"We can transport up to 3,000 lbs per flight and are capable of transporting home appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, etc. and also furniture," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Simply put, as its website maintains, MACS provides professional transport solutions including air freight and logistics services to businesses and individuals throughout the Marianas.

MASC relies on its fleet of four large turboprop Cessna 208 Caravans to load and deliver cargo safely and efficiently to Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

Santos said while flying to all four main islands of the Marianas chain, MASC has become a reliable cargo company for the who's who of businesses in the region.

Just some of the companies that have put their trust in MASC include DHL Express, Ambyth Logistics, CTSI Logistics, FedEx, UPS, Triple B Forwarders, Cargo Express, Triple J Superfresh, "plus numerous other businesses that transport goods when needed like Pizza Hut, McDonald's, just to name a couple," according to Santos.

With over 80 years of combined experience, MASC's talented and motivated team has also been recognized as one of the best in the industry.

As for current promotions, MASC has a "Thursday Special Rate" for cargo bound for Rota, which is quite timely after the northernmost island of the CNMI recently was affected by Typhoon Mawar.

Santos said for the past nine years, MASC has been a partner in fulfilling the Commonwealth's cargo shipment needs and looks forward to servicing the islands in many more years to come.

"We are here to provide services to everyone. You don't have to have an account with us to send or receive shipments. We have flights between Saipan and Guam daily from Monday to Saturday, to Rota on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and to Tinian on Tuesday and Friday."

MASC is located at the Micronesian Air Cargo Services Hangar along Northwest Loop at the Francisco M. Palacios-Saipan International Airport. Its Saipan office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 3pm and Saturday from 7:30am to 12pm.

For more information on MASC, call at (670) 288-6227 on Saipan, (670) 783-7803 on Tinian, (670) 285-4826 on Rota, and (671) 475-5532 in Guam. They can also be reached via email: contact@macsaircargo.com or go to their website at https://macsaircargo.com/.

CONTRUBUTED PHOTO
MASC's talented and motivated team has also been recognized as one of the best in the industry.

CONTRUBUTED PHOTO
Micronesian Air Cargo Services relies on its fleet of four large turboprop Cessna 208 Caravans to load and deliver cargo safely and efficiently to Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

FTX founder's lawyers say attempt to jail him before trial is wrong

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried said Tuesday that prosecutors are wrong to seek his detention prior to trial because their arguments are built on "innuendo, speculation, and scant facts."

The written submission in Manhattan federal court was a response to the prosecution's claim last week that no bail conditions can stop the onetime cryptocurrency power broker from trying to improperly influence the potential jury pool for his October 2 trial.

Bankman-Fried, 31, has been free on a $250 million personal recognizance bond since his December extradition from the Bahamas to face charges in New York that he defrauded investors in his businesses by diverting millions of dollars from their intended purpose. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

At a hearing last week, Judge Lewis A. Kaplan told lawyers to submit written arguments before he decides if Bankman-Fried must be jailed or can remain confined to his parents' Palo Alto, California, home, where his electronic communications are severely limited and are monitored by the government.

It was at that hearing that a prosecutor surprised defense lawyers with the request that their client's bail be revoked on the grounds that he gave personal writings of a key witness against him to a reporter for The New York Times in an effort to cast her in a bad light and influence potential trial jurors.

The witness, Caroline Ellison, was the CEO of Alameda Research, a cryptocurrency trading hedge fund affiliated with FTX, and had been in an off-and-on romantic relationship with Bankman-Fried prior to the collapse last November of FTX.

Ellison pleaded guilty in December to criminal charges that carry a potential penalty of 110 years in prison. She has agreed to testify against Bankman-Fried as part of a deal that could result in leniency.

In their filing Tuesday, Bankman-Fried's attorneys said their client was merely defending his reputation in responding to the reporter who had gathered information elsewhere for his article. They said it was his First Amendment right to speak with reporters when so many articles reflect negatively on him.

"In support of its theory that Mr. Bankman-Fried 'tampered' with witnesses, the Government proffers evidence that consists of innuendo, speculation, and scant facts," the lawyers wrote. "The Government's showing is a far cry from the evidence presented in cases in this district where remand has been ordered in connection with alleged witness tampering, and in no way supports revocation of Mr. Bankman-Fried's bail."

Maine's biggest newspaper group now nonprofit under National Trust for Local News

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—With advertising shrinking and newspapers vanishing, Maine's largest newspaper group became the latest to try a nonprofit model with the completion of the sale of more than 20 daily and weekly newspapers, including the Portland Press Herald.

The National Trust for Local News, which already owns two dozen newspapers in Colorado, is expanding its portfolio through the purchase of five daily newspapers and 17 weekly newspapers that were part of Masthead Maine. Former Masthead owner Reade Brower retained ownership of several weeklies that weren't part of the deal.

The newspapers will now fall under the umbrella of the Maine Trust for Local News with the closing of the deal on Tuesday. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

The deal, which covers all of the state's daily newspapers except the Bangor Daily News, represents a trend toward a nonprofit business model as newspapers continue to struggle.

"I wouldn't say it's sweeping the country but we're seeing this trend. And it's a healthy one. Commercial news organizations are struggling from loss of advertising revenue," said Tim Franklin, senior associate dean and leader of the Local News Initiative at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

The transformation from a commercial business to a nonprofit was a positive outcome compared to other alternatives including corporate ownership that could have been more focused on making making cuts to maximize profits, executives told Portland Press Herald employees at a meeting and celebration in South Portland.

"Too many corporate news owners across the country have abandoned their missions in the name of short-term profits. That will not happen here," Steve Greenlee, editor of the Portland Press Herald, told The Associated Press in a statement.

Former Masthead Maine CEO Lisa DeSisto, who will continue her leadership role as CEO and publisher of the Maine Trust for Local News, called the deal "an incredible outcome for our employees, our readers and the state of Maine."

"I worked lots of days in the newspaper business — this was the best one," DeSisto wrote in an email after briefing workers at meetings in South Portland, Augusta, Waterville and Brunswick.

Local news is in crisis with the nation losing a quarter of its newspapers since 2005 and advertising revenue declining by as much as 80% over a decade, Franklin said.

Reade Brower, the newspapers' former owner, purchased MaineToday Media, the parent company of the Press Herald, the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, in 2015 and added newspaper groups and newspapers over the next several years.

Brower, 66, announced in March he was considering selling his media holdings and he said Tuesday that he chose the "least disruptive" option for his workers. "I had other choices. This is the one that felt the best to me. I didn't do this to create wealth. I did this to create a sustainable business. And that's what I've done," he said Tuesday evening.

Nation

Trump indicted for efforts to overturn 2020 election

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump was indicted on felony charges Tuesday for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol, with the Justice Department acting to hold him accountable for an unprecedented effort to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power and threaten American democracy.

The four-count indictment, the third criminal case against Trump, provided deeper insight into a dark moment that has already been the subject of exhaustive federal investigations and captivating public hearings. It chronicles a months-long campaign of lies about the election results and says that, even when those falsehoods resulted in a chaotic insurrection at the Capitol, Trump sought to exploit the violence by pointing to it as a reason to further delay the counting of votes that sealed his defeat.

Even in a year of rapid-succession legal reckonings for Trump, Tuesday's indictment, with charges including conspiring to defraud the United States government that he once led, was stunning in its allegations that a former president assaulted the "bedrock function" of democracy. It's the first time the defeated president, who is the early front-runner for next year's Republican presidential nomination, is facing legal consequences for his frantic but ultimately failed effort to cling to power.

"The attack on our nation's Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy," said Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith, whose office has spent months investigating Trump. "It was fueled by lies, lies by the defendant targeted at obstructing a bedrock function of the U.S. government: the nation's process of collecting counting and certifying the results of the presidential election."

The Trump campaign called the charges "fake" and asked why it took two-and-a-half years to bring them.

Trump was the only person charged in Tuesday's indictment. But prosecutors obliquely referenced a half-dozen co-conspirators, including lawyers inside and outside of government who they said had worked with Trump to undo the election results. They also advanced legally dubious schemes to enlist slates of fake electors in battleground states won by Democrat Joe Biden to falsely claim that Trump had actually won them.

The indictment accuses the defeated president and his allies of trying to "exploit the violence and chaos" by calling lawmakers into the evening on Jan. 6 to delay the certification of Biden's victory.

It also cites handwritten notes from former Vice President Mike Pence that give gravitas to Trump's relentless goading to reject the electoral votes. Pence, who is challenging Trump for the GOP presidential nomination, declined overtures from a House panel that investigated the insurrection and sought to avoid testifying before the special counsel. He appeared only after losing a court fight, with prosecutors learning that Trump in one conversation derided him as "too honest" to stop the certification.

Trump is due in court Thursday, the first step in a legal process that will play out in a courthouse situated between the White House he once controlled and the Capitol his supporters once stormed. The case is already being dismissed by the former president and his supporters — and even some of his rivals — as just another politically motivated prosecution.

Yet the case stems from one of the most serious threats to American democracy in modern history.

The indictment centers on the turbulent two months after the November 2020 election in which Trump refused to accept his loss and spread lies that victory was stolen from him. The turmoil resulted in the riot at the Capitol, when Trump loyalists violently broke into the building, attacked police officers and disrupted the congressional counting of electoral votes.

In between the election and the riot, Trump urged local election officials to undo voting results in their states, pressured Pence to halt the certification of electoral votes and falsely claimed that the election had been stolen — a notion repeatedly rejected by judges. Among those lies, prosecutors say, were claims that more than 10,000 dead voters had voted in Georgia along with tens of thousands of double votes in Nevada. Each claim had been rebutted by courts or state or federal officials, the indictment says.

Prosecutors say Trump knew his claims of having won the election were false but he "repeated and widely disseminated them anyway — to make his knowingly false claims appear legitimate, to create an intense national atmosphere of mistrust and anger, and to erode public faith in the administration of the election."

The document carefully outlined arguments that Trump has been making to defend his conduct, that he had every right to challenge the results, to use the courts, even to lie about it in the process. But in stark detail, the indictment outlines how the former president instead took criminal steps to reverse the clear verdict voters had rendered.

More teachers are quitting their jobs

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Rhonda Hicks could have kept working into her 60s. She loved teaching and loved her students in Philadelphia's public schools. As a Black woman, she took pride in being a role model for many children of color.

But other aspects of the job deteriorated, such as growing demands from administrators over what and how to teach. And when she retires in a few weeks, she will join a disproportionately high number of Black and Hispanic teachers in her state who are leaving the profession.

"I enjoy actually teaching, that part I've always enjoyed," said Hicks, 59. "Sometimes it's a little stressful. Sometimes the kids can be difficult. But it's the higher-ups: 'Do it this way or don't do it at all.'"

Teachers are leaving jobs in growing numbers, state reports show. The turnover in some cases is highest among teachers of color. A major culprit: stress — from pandemic-era burnout, low pay and the intrusion of politics into classrooms. But the burdens can be heavier in schools serving high-poverty communities that also have higher numbers of teachers of color.

In Philadelphia, a city with one of the highest concentrations of Black residents in the U.S., the proportion of Black teachers has been sliding. Two decades ago, it was about one-third. Last fall, it fell to below 23%, according to district figures.

In the school buildings where Hicks taught, most teachers were white. She said she and other teachers of color were expected to give more of themselves in a district where half the students are Black.

"A lot of times when you see teachers that are saving Black and brown kids on TV, it's always the white ones," Hicks said. "There are Black teachers and Hispanic teachers out there that do the same thing in real life, all the time."

Nationally, about 80% of American public school teachers are white, even though white students no longer represent a majority in public schools. Having teachers who reflect the race of their students is important, researchers say, to provide students with role models who have insight into their culture and life experience.

Fitch downgrades US credit rating

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fitch Ratings has downgraded the United States government's credit rating, citing rising debt at the federal, state, and local levels and a "steady deterioration in standards of governance" over the past two decades.

The rating was cut Tuesday one notch to AA+ from AAA, the highest possible rating. The new rating is still well into investment grade.

The decision illustrates one way that growing political polarization and repeated Washington standoffs over spending and taxes could end up costing U.S. taxpayers. A lower credit rating, over time, could raise borrowing costs for the U.S. government.

It's only the second time in the nation's history that its credit rating has been cut. In 2011, the ratings agency Standard & Poor's stripped the U.S. of its prize AAA rating after a prolonged fight over the government's borrowing limit. The Government Accountability Office, in a 2012 report, estimated that the 2011 budget standoff raised Treasury's borrowing costs by $1.3 billion that year.

At the same time, the huge size of the U.S. economy and historic stability of the federal government has kept its borrowing costs low. Global investors often flock to U.S. Treasury securities during periods of economic turmoil, lowering the interest rate paid by the U.S. government.

Fitch had warned May 24 that it could remove the government's triple-A rating as Congress again struggled to raise the borrowing limit. A deal was reached nearly a week later that suspended the limit and cut about $1.5 trillion from the government deficit over the next decade.

Fitch cited the worsening political divisions around spending and tax policy as a key reason for its decision. It said U.S. governance has declined relative to other highly rated countries and it noted "repeated debt limit standoffs and last-minute resolutions."

Biden administration officials strongly criticized Fitch's move. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said it was "arbitrary" and "based on outdated data."

Yellen noted that the U.S. economy has rapidly recovered from the pandemic recession, with the unemployment rate near a half-century low and the economy expanding at a solid 2.4% annual rate in the April-June quarter.

Fitch informed Biden administration officials that the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection was a factor in its decision to downgrade because it indicated an unstable government, according to a person familiar with the discussions between the administration and the rating agency. Fitch produced a report last year that showed government stability declined from 2018 to 2021, but increased since Biden assumed the presidency, said the person, who was granted anonymity to disclose private conversations.

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Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 10, 2023** at **2:30PM** at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation will continue via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
  1) CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2022-035-A1
  Project: CONSTRUCTION OF TRIPLE J TINIAN DORMITORIES & RECREATIONAL BUILDINGS
  Applicant: TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
  Triple J Saipan, Inc. is proposing to construct two additional dormitory buildings and one recreational building on Lot Nos. 023 T 21 and 023 T 22 in Marpo Heights, Tinian.
    a. Agencies' Attendance/Audio Review Confirmation - August 8, 2023 Public Hearing
    b. Agencies' Discussion of the Proposed Project
    c. Agencies' Final Determination
IV. OTHER MATTERS
V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

N. Korea calls US human rights envoy 'political housemaid' in protest of criticisms

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea hurled misogynistic insults Wednesday at a newly confirmed United States special envoy to monitor the country's human rights issues and warned of unspecified security consequences if Washington continues to criticize its human rights conditions. The statement published by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency described Julie Turner as a "wicked woman" who was picked by the Biden administration as a "political housemaid" to launch groundless attacks on the country's human rights record. The U.S. Senate confirmed Turner's appointment July 27. She previously served as the director of East Asia and the Pacific at the State Department. The statement said the Biden administration's public criticism of North Korea's human rights situation highlighted its hostility toward Pyongyang in the face of an intensifying nuclear standoff between the countries. KCNA described Turner's past criticisms of North Korea's human rights record as absurd, and said the U.S. "revels in meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and slandering it." "Turner should know that she was chosen as a political housemaid and scapegoat for the 'human rights' plots to pressure the DPRK, a poor policy set forth by the Biden administration driven into a scrape in the DPRK-U.S. nuclear confrontation," the agency said, using the initials of the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The agency said the continued U.S. criticism on North Korean human rights issues could "backfire on it, spawning severe security issues."

Floods around Beijing kill at least 20, leave 27 missing

BEIJING (AP)—Torrential rain in areas around China's capital, Beijing, killed at least 20 people and left 27 missing, the government reported Tuesday, as flooding destroyed roads, uprooted trees and knocked out power. Thousands of people were evacuated to shelters in schools and other public buildings in suburban Beijing and in the nearby cities of Tianjin and Zhuozhou. The severity of the flooding took the Chinese capital by surprise. Beijing usually has dry summers but had a stretch of record-breaking heat this year. Other areas, especially China's south, have suffered unusually severe summer flooding that caused scores of deaths. Other parts of the country are struggling with drought. Muddy water surging down streets washed away cars in the Mentougou district on Beijing's western edge. "The cars parked on the street floated and got washed away," said a resident, Liu Shuanbao. "A couple of cars parked behind my apartment building disappeared in just one minute." Emergency workers used bulldozers on Tuesday to clear streets while residents waded through mud. "Neither officials nor ordinary people expected the rain to be so heavy," said another Mentougou resident, Wu Changpo. "There were a lot of landslides and flooded villages. I cried repeatedly seeing these reports."

16 workers killed in collapse of crane being used to build bridge in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A huge crane collapsed at a highway construction site in western India, killing at least 16 workers, the country's National Disaster Response Force said Tuesday Television footage showed the collapsed crane on the ground as rescue workers looked for survivors near the site in Thane, a city just outside Mumbai. At least three people who were injured were rushed to a hospital. Press Trust of India reported the crane is used to install precast box girders while building highway and high-speed rail bridges. Indian Prime Minster Narendra Modi expressed his condolences in a message on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are injured," his office said in a post.

India's northern Haryana state tense after 5 killed in clashes between Hindus and Muslims

NUH, India (AP)—Indian authorities imposed a curfew, suspended internet service and deployed thousands of paramilitary forces Tuesday to parts of northern Haryana state after deadly communal clashes spread to Gurugram, a city just outside the capital, New Delhi. The violence began Monday afternoon when Hindus and Muslims clashed with each other in Haryana's Nuh district during a religious procession by a Hindu nationalist group, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. Two police officers and two other people were killed. More than 20 police officers were injured in the violence and dozens of cars were set on fire, a police statement said. Tensions later spilled over to Gurugram, some 30 kilometers (19 miles) from New Delhi, where mobs torched a mosque and killed a Muslim cleric late Monday night. Police said some attackers have been arrested. There were no reports of fresh violence from either place on Tuesday, but authorities said they had ordered schools and colleges to remain shut as a precautionary measure. On Tuesday, baton-wielding police marched down the streets of Nuh littered which were with stones and charred vehicles in the areas where clashes took place, as fear-stricken residents remained indoors. "A large mob destroyed property, cars and hand carts. I stayed indoors to protect my family," said local resident Mahendra, who only gave his first name. Another local, Akram Qureshi, said many families abandoned the violence-stricken neighborhoods out of fear.

Taiwan amends laws on sexual harassment after recent #MeToo wave

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan amended three laws governing sexual harassment in a special session of the legislature, after a wave of #MeToo accusations hit the island in June. The changes approved Monday include higher penalties and longer periods for victims to come forward and report an incident to authorities. The changes are an attempt to address the issues raised by the recent accusations of sexual violence in Taiwan. Taiwan has three laws governing sexual harassment: one for the workplace, one for schools and one that covers spheres outside those two domains. Under the workplace law, employers can now be fined up to 1 million New Taiwan Dollars ($31,680) if they fail to address sexual harassment complaints. Employers are also required to report cases to the local division of their labor department. The education law, amended last Friday, explicitly makes it illegal for educators to have a romantic relationship with students under the age of 18. Further, principals and teachers who fail to report to the Ministry of Education a sexual harassment allegation within 24 hours can be fined.

World

Drone attacks in Moscow's biz district leave residents on edge

By EMMA BURROWS
Associated Press

AP

People stroll at embankment of the Moscow River in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, with the "Moscow City" business district in the background.

The glittering towers of the Moscow City business district dominate the skyline of the Russian capital. The sleek glass-and-steel buildings—designed to attract investment amid an economic boom in the early 2000s—are a dramatic, modern contrast to the rest of the more than 800-year-old city.

Now they are a sign of its vulnerability, following a series of drone attacks that rattled some Muscovites and brought the war in Ukraine home to the seat of Russian power.

The attacks on Sunday and Tuesday aren't the first to hit Moscow — a drone even struck the Kremlin harmlessly in May. But these latest blasts, which caused no casualties but blew out part of a section of windows on a high-rise building and sent glass cascading to the streets, seemed particularly unsettling.

"It's very frightening because you wake up at night hearing explosions," said a woman who identified herself only as Ulfiya as she walked her dog, adding that she lived in a nearby building. Like other Muscovites interviewed by The Associated Press, she did not identify herself further out of fear of retribution or for her personal safety.

Another resident, who gave her name as Ekaterina, said Tuesday's blast "sounded like thunder."

"I think for the first time, I got really scared," she said. "I don't understand how people in a war zone can live like this every day and not go mad."

The Russian Defense Ministry said it shot down two Ukrainian drones outside Moscow and had electronically jammed another, sending it crashing into the IQ-Quarter skyscraper that houses government offices like the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade — the same building that was hit Sunday.

A cordon went up around the building and personnel from the fire department and the Russian Investigative Committee were at the scene. Hours later, residents strolled through the district along the Moscow River or sat on benches in the sunshine. By about 1 p.m. Tuesday, workers were already starting to replace damaged windows.

Niger crisis deepens as European nations evacuate

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—A French military transport plane carrying Europeans from Niger arrived in Paris Wednesday, in the first such evacuation flight since mutinous soldiers ousted the country's democratically elected president nearly a week ago and shut its borders.

France, Italy and Spain all announced evacuations from Niger for their citizens and other European nationals, concerned that they risked becoming trapped by the coup that won backing Tuesday from three other West African nations also ruled by mutinous soldiers.

About 600 French nationals want to leave, along with 400 people of other nationalities from Belgians to Danish, French officials said. The first flight carried mostly French nationals, and officials hope to finish the evacuation flights by Wednesday.

With Niger's air space closed, France coordinated the evacuations with the regime that ousted the nation's leader, but without withdrawing its support for democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, diplomatic officials said.

The ministry cited recent violence that targeted its embassy in Niamey, the capital, as one of the reasons for its decision to offer evacuation flights to its citizens and other Europeans. Spain's Defense Ministry announced preparations to evacuate more than 70 nationals, and Italy also said it was arranging a flight.

The evacuations come during a deepening crisis sparked by the coup last week against Bazoum. His apparent overthrow is a blow for Western nations that were working with Niger against West African extremists.

In Niamey hotels, Europeans and other nationalities, including some Americans, packed bags. At the airport, hundreds of people lined up for hours waiting to leave on French evacuation flights.

A former French military official who had been training the Nigerien army as a civilian told The Associated Press that he was departing even though his "job is not finished." Speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons, he said the military takeover took many people by surprise.

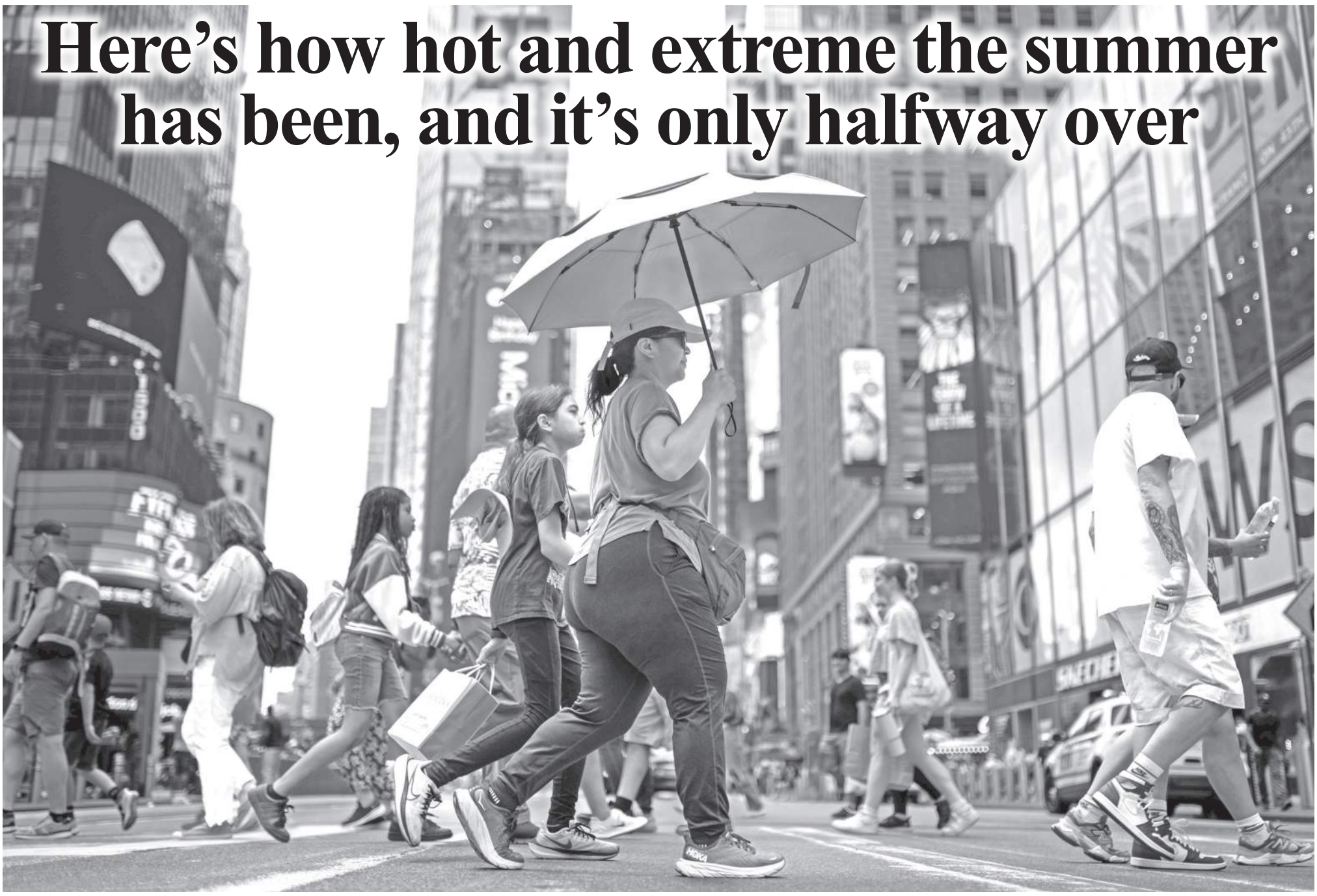
The West African regional body known as ECOWAS announced travel and economic sanctions against Niger on Sunday and said it could use force if coup leaders don't reinstate Bazoum within one week.

The U,N, special envoy for West Africa and the Sahel, Leonardo Santos Simão, held out hope that bloodshed could be avoided.

He said during a virtual news conference Tuesday he expects ECOWAS to go ahead with the deployment of troops to Niger if Bazoum isn't restored to power. But "I believe that other efforts are underway, so I hope the use of force will not be necessary," if "everybody talks in good faith (and) wants to avoid bloodshed."

Environment

Here's how hot and extreme the summer has been, and it's only halfway over



AP

A pedestrian uses an umbrella to shield against the sun while passing through Times Square as temperatures rise, July 27, 2023, in New York.

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

At about summer's halfway point, the record-breaking heat and weather extremes are both unprecedented and unsurprising, hellish yet boring in some ways, scientists say.

Killer heat. Deadly floods. Smoke from wildfires that chokes.

And there's no relief in sight.

Expect a hotter than normal August and September, American and European forecast centers predict.

"We are seeing unprecedented changes all over the world," said NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt. "The heat waves that we're seeing in the U.S. and in Europe, in China are demolishing records left, right and center. This is not a surprise."

Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto said examining what's causing heat waves is "boring" in a way since it keeps happening. Yet she added that it matters "because it shows again just how much climate change plays a role in what we are currently experiencing."

"This story, these impacts, are going to continue," Schmidt said. "We're going to be seeing this pretty much this year and into next year" with a natural El Nino warming of the Pacific adding to the overwhelming influence of human-caused climate change largely from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Here's a rundown of the summer of Earth's discontent.

Record-shattering heat

Globally, June this year was the hottest June on record—and scientists say July has been so hot that even before the month was over they could say it was the hottest month on record. But it's individual places where people live that the heat has stuck around and killed.

Phoenix, where the last day of June and each day of July has been at least 110 degrees (43 degrees Celsius), set records for the longest mega-heat streak and longest stretch when the temperatures didn't go below 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius) at night.

El Paso, Texas, had 44 days of 100 degree (37 degree) heat. Schools closed in Nuevo Leon state in northern Mexico a month earlier than usual as temperatures reached 113 degrees (45 Celsius).

Farther east, Miami added humidity to high heat for 46 straight days of feels-like temperatures of 100 or more.

Beijing had its own record streak with at least 27 days of 95 degrees (35 Celsius) in July, after a three-day streak of at least 104 (40 Celsius) in June. And the country set it's all-time highest temperature on July 16 in remote Sanbao township with 126 degrees (52.2 Celsius).

Heat records fell all over southern Europe. Sardinia, Italy, hit 117 (47 Celsius). Palermo in Sicily broke a record that goes back to 1791 by a whopping 3.6 degrees (2 degrees Celsius). Temperatures hit 115 (46 Celsius) in Gytheio, Greece.

Spain reported nearly 1,000 excess deaths from the heat, mostly among the elderly, by mid-July.

In Argentina, where it's mid-winter, temperatures were above 89.6 (32 Celsius) four straight days in June in the northern part of the county. One July night in Buenos Aires didn't get below the 70s (low 20s Celsius).

Too much rain

More than 10,000 people had to be evacuated in central Hunan province in China where heavy rainfall caused at least 70 houses to collapse. In Yichang, rain triggered a landslide that buried a construction site and killed at least one person.

Australia's Queensland outback got 13 times its normal monthly July rain in just one day.

Thousands of people were evacuated from Delhi in India as rains caused flash floods and landslides. Elsewhere in the country at least 100 people were killed by the downpours.

In the United States, sudden heavy rain killed people in Vermont, Connecticut and Pennsylvania with tragic stories of children washed away in flooding.

Wildfires and smoke

Too little rain in Greece and Spain fed wildfires that proved difficult to fight. In the Canary Islands, a fire caused 4,000 people to evacuate, others to wear face masks and had 400 firefighters battling it.

Hot and dry conditions caused about 160 wildfires to break out in Israel in early June.

But what really brought fires home happened in parts of Canada where few people live. Rare far northern Quebec wildfires triggered nasty smoke that inflicted the world's dirtiest air on cities like New York and Washington, then switched to the Midwest.

As of late July more than 600 wildfires were out of control in Canada. A record 47,490 square miles (123,000 square kilometers) burned, and fire season isn't near done. That's an area larger than the state of Pennsylvania or North Korea.

Water temperatures

Water temperatures in the Florida Keys and off the Everglades hit the high 90s (high 30s Celsius) with Manatee Bay breaking 100 degrees twice in what could be an unofficial world record for surface water temperature, although that's in dispute.

The North Atlantic had hot spots that alarmed scientists. The world's oceans as a whole were their hottest ever in June and got even hotter in July. In Antarctica, sea ice smashed record-low levels.

Ocean temperatures take a long time to warm up and cool down, said University of Northern Illinois meteorology professor Victor Gensini. So it doesn't look good for the rest of the summer, he said.

A hot forecast

"We are favoring above normal temperatures for the next three months," said NOAA Climate Prediction Center meteorologist Matt Rosencrans.

The only potential relief he sees, especially in the hot Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, is if a hurricane or tropical storm moves through.

The peak of hurricane season in September hasn't even started.

When going through the litany of this summer's weather extremes so far, University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann had one question: "How on God's Earth are we still burning fossil fuels after witnessing all this?"

Life & Style

Lawsuit by former dancers accuses Lizzo of sexual harassment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lizzo has been sued by three former dancers who accuse the Grammy winner of sexual harassment and allege the singer and her production company created a hostile work environment.

The civil lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court claims Lizzo pressured the dancers to engage with nude performers at a club in Amsterdam and shamed one of them for her weight gain before firing her.

Plaintiffs Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez make numerous charges including sexual, religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment.

The legal complaint seeks unspecified damages and names Melissa Viviane Jefferson, known professionally as Lizzo, her production company Big Grrrl Big Touring, Inc., and Shirlene Quigley, captain of the performer's dance team.

Representatives for Lizzo didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment on the lawsuit.

The court filing claims that after performing a concert in Amsterdam, Lizzo and her crew attended a sexually themed show at a club in the city's notorious Red Light District where "Lizzo began inviting cast members to take turns touching the nude performers." During the show, Lizzo led a chant pressuring Davis to touch the breasts of one of the nude women performing at the club, the filing states.

AP

Lizzo performs at the BottleRock Napa Valley Music Festival on May 27, 2023, in Napa, Calif.

"Finally, the chorus became overwhelming, and a mortified Ms. Davis acquiesced in an attempt to bring an end to the chants," the complaint states. "Plaintiffs were aghast with how little regard Lizzo showed for the bodily autonomy of her employees and those around her, especially in the presence of many people whom she employed."

Lizzo, who routinely champions body positivity, is also accused of calling out Davis for her weight gain after accusing the dancer of not being committed to her role. Davis was fired in May for recording a meeting during which Lizzo had given out notes to dancers about their performances, according to the complaint.

Quigley, who served as a judge on the singer's reality show "Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls," is accused in the lawsuit of pushing her Christian beliefs onto dancers. The court filing claims Quigley referred to Davis as a "non-believer" and told co-workers that "No job and no one will stop me from talking about the Lord."

Earlier this year, Lizzo won the Grammy for record of the year for her hit "About Damn Time." A global tour supporting her fourth studio album, 2022's "Special," wrapped up last month.

Vintage computer that helped launch Apple empire is being sold at auction

BOSTON (AP)—A vintage Apple computer signed by company co-founder Steve Wozniak is being sold at auction.

The Apple-1 set in motion the company that in June became the first publicly traded business to close a trading day with a $3 trillion market value, according to RR Auction in Boston. The computer has been restored to a fully operational state and comes with a custom-built case with a built-in keyboard, the agency said.

"It's an incredibly rare commodity," said Tim Bajarin, chairman of Creative Strategies, a technology research firm with deep knowledge of the industry. "You can trace the growth of the PC industry to the Apple-1."

The computer, which originally sold for about $666, is expected to sell for about $200,000 at an auction that runs through Aug. 24. An Apple-1 prototype sold last year for nearly $700,000.

"Before this, the idea of having a personal computer was totally outrageous," Bajarin said.

About 200 were manufactured in Steve Jobs' garage in Los Altos, California, in 1976 and 1977 and about 175 of them were sold, RR's Executive Vice President Bobby Livingston said.

"It is the legendary computer that launched Apple," he said.

Jobs approached Paul Terrell, owner of The Byte Shop in Mountain View, California, and he agreed to buy 50 Apple-1 computers, but only if they were fully assembled, according to RR Auction. The Apple-1 thus became one of the first personal computers that did not require soldering by the purchaser, RR said, although it did not come with a power supply, case, keyboard or monitor.

Booker Prize semifinalists include 4 Irish writers, 4 debut novelists

LONDON (AP)—Author Sebastian Barry, who has received four previous nominations for the Booker Prize and twice been shortlisted for it, was one of four Irish writers Tuesday to make the long list of semifinalists for the prestigious award.

Barry is up this year for his novel "Old God's Time," about a retired police detective who gets dragged back into a cold case investigation of a murdered priest suspected of sexually abusing children.

Twelve other writers, including four debut novelists and two prior Booker nominees, are up for the 50,000 pound ($64,000) prize. The authors are from seven different countries on four continents.

"All 13 novels cast new light on what it means to exist in our time, and they do so in original and thrilling ways," said Esi Edugyan, chair of the judges. "Their range is vast, both in subject and form: they shocked us, made us laugh, filled us with anguish, but above all they stayed with us."

The award recognizes the best in long fiction published in the U.K. and Ireland between Oct. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023. The nominees were chosen from 163 books submitted by publishers.

The winner is set to be announced Nov. 26 after the list is pared down to six finalists next month.

Malaysian writer Tan Twan Eng received his third nomination, this time for "The House of Doors," a book of historical fiction drawn from the life of Somerset Maugham.

Paul Murray, another Irish writer, was nominated for "The Bee Sting," a tragicomic family saga. It is his second nomination.

Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow's debut novel, "All The Little Bird-Hearts," is about a rule-bound mother whose carefully ordered life is upended when a charming couple moves next door with darker designs on her 16-year-old daughter. Like her protagonist, Lloyd-Barlow is autistic.

Shehan Karunatilaka, one of Sri Lanka's most prestigious writers, won the 2022 Booker Prize for "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida," a satirical "afterlife noir" set during Sri Lanka's brutal civil war.

Man fighting to reclaim his life from alcoholism

DEAR ABBY: I am a married man (15 years) with three children, and I am a recovering alcoholic. My marriage has been a roller coaster filled with lies, infidelity (my wife's), abuse and drinking. I am in an outpatient alcohol program to save myself, my family and my marriage.

My wife is talking to other men. She communicates via text, on social media and in person, saying it's non-sexual. She constantly tells me they are better than I am, that I'm a loser and I'll get what I deserve (meaning losing her and the children).

I still want to save my marriage. I know I have been a poor husband due to the drinking, but that is changing. I keep trying to convince her to give me a little time to prove that I can be a brand-new, sober, honest man. She says it's too late and that I pushed her into the arms of others. She says she no longer loves me and is going to divorce me. She evidently has hired an attorney.

Our children beg her all the time to not divorce me, not to seek others and to let Dad show he is changing. I'm lost, angry, hurt and anxious. I want to save my family and somehow convince her that I'm better than the person she has seen. Is the trauma too much to overcome?

MIDDLE OF THE STORM

DEAR MIDDLE: Although you may desperately want to save your marriage, for your own sake, it's time to face facts. Your wife has an attorney, plans to leave the marriage and is seeing other people. She's no longer interested in saving the marriage.

That you are in a program to help you overcome your addiction is laudable, but paramount now is that you do everything you can to heal yourself. It will make you a better father to your children if you are fully present. You may need professional counseling to help you through this painful period so you can map out a better future for you and the kids.

Talk to an attorney for reassurance that your wife cannot take them from you. You already have their love. They see you are trying to better yourself. Let nothing stand in the way of that.

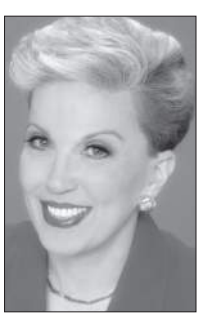
■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is addicted to our home security cameras. He, my 19-year-old daughter and I live in a townhouse, in which he has installed no fewer than 20 cameras in and around our home. He's always looking at them, when I'm on my way out to run errands or to visit my older daughter and even while we are eating dinner. He has started keeping a log of my daughter's and my activities and what our neighbors are doing. What is wrong with him?

UNDER A MICROSCOPE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR UNDER A MICROSCOPE: Does your husband have a job or any outside interests besides what you, your daughter and the neighbors are doing? His compulsion may be caused by insecurity, paranoia or a need to control.

Have you ASKED him why he feels the need to do this? While it's not unusual for families to install security systems in their homes, your husband's obsession is over the top. This isn't normal behavior, and something may be wrong with him.

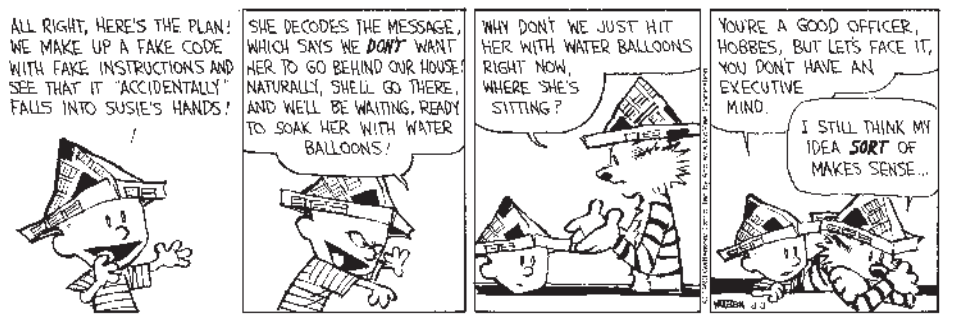
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE PLAN! WE MAKE UP A FAKE CODE WITH FAKE INSTRUCTIONS AND SEE THAT IT "ACCIDENTALLY" FALLS INTO SUSIE'S HANDS!
SHE DECODES THE MESSAGE, WHICH SAYS WE DON'T WANT HER TO GO BEHIND OUR HOUSE! NATURALLY, SHE'LL GO THERE, AND WE'LL BE WAITING, READY TO SOAK HER WITH WATER BALLOONS!
WHY DON'T WE JUST HIT HER WITH WATER BALLOONS RIGHT NOW, WHERE SHE'S SITTING?
YOU'RE A GOOD OFFICER, HOBBES, BUT LET'S FACE IT, YOU DON'T HAVE AN EXECUTIVE MIND.
I STILL THINK MY IDEA SORT OF MAKES SENSE...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH, SURE. YEAH. YES. I WORK FROM HOME.
YEAH, I LIKE IT! IT GIVES ME A LOT MORE TIME WITH MY...
DAD! CLAYTON SUPERGLUED HIMSELF TO THE CEILING FAN!
...KIDS. CAN I GIVE YOU A CALL RIGHT BACK?
NO RUSH, DAD. THE CEILING SEEMS TO BE HOLDING.
8-3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ENO! ENO!!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M GOING OUT TO THE BACKYARD TO BARK.
SO?
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE FLASHLIGHT IS? I DON'T WANT TO STEP IN ANY OF MY OWN DOGGY-DOO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Round Table titles
5 Apiece
9 — Lingus
12 Ritzy
13 Petty of "Tank Girl"
14 Salt Lake athlete
15 Aviation aid
17 Bar bill
18 Distress
19 Do-re-mi
21 Alien, for short
22 Mirror fogger
24 You love (Lat.)
27 Comedian Margaret
28 Crazes
31 Greek cross
32 Chapeau
33 Eastern path
34 Closet invader
36 In the past
37 Admin. aide
38 Desert haven
40 Mac alternative
41 Museum artifact
43 Desert plants
47 "Evil Woman" gp.
48 Signature
51 Rap sheet abbr.
52 Cauldron concoction
53 Peter Fonda role
54 ISP giant
55 Ledge
56 "Frozen" snow queen

DOWN

1 Quarrel
2 Debtors' notes
3 Alphabetic sequence
4 Coastal areas
5 Yale students
6 ISP giant
7 — -Magnon
8 Blackjack call
9 Coin-op eateries
10 And others (Lat.)
11 C&W artist McEntire
16 Trench
20 Klutz
22 Thick carpets
23 Dorothy's dog
24 $ dispenser
25 Chinese chairman
26 Car buyer's aid
27 Spiced tea
29 German article
30 Lush
35 "Bali —"
37 Amass
39 Union foes
40 Boxer
41 500 sheets
42 Lodge members
43 Wail
44 Use a phone
45 Tarzan's clique
46 — butter
49 Swiss canton
50 — Aviv

Solution time: 24 mins.

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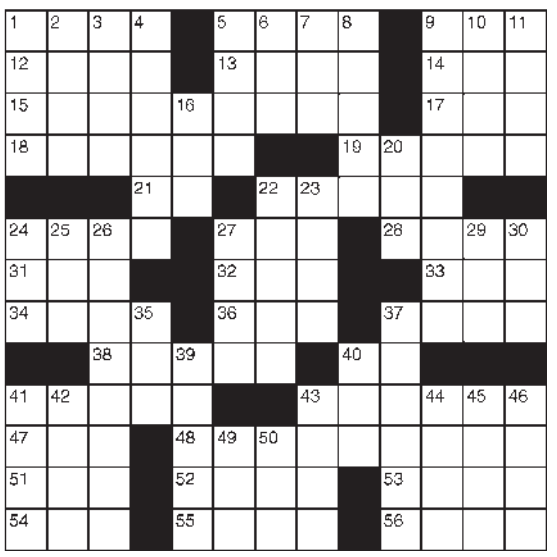
■	■	■	D	I	V	■	E	M	T	S	■	■
T	A	B	■	T	E	A	■	T	E	T	O	N
A	L	A	S	■	S	A	G	■	D	C	L	C
P	A	C	L	D	■	A	R	I	■	P	L	A
■	■	K	N	I	T	■	A	R	C	■	■	■
A	S	S	I	S	I	■	N	A	U	S	F	A
P	C	L	O	■	B	C	D	Y	S	U	R	F
S	C	I	R	■	I	A	M	■	P	I	M	A
E	N	D	S	■	A	R	A	■	S	T	A	R

Yesterday's answer 8-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evangeline Lilly, 44; Michael Ealy, 50; Martha Stewart, 82; Martin Sheen, 83.

Happy Birthday: Don't let uncertainty weigh you down if applying your skills will help you reach your objective. Stay focused on what's important to you, and adapt your skills and expertise to suit trends. You have plenty to gain if you keep your plans simple and within budget. Say no to grand ideas and concepts and yes to what works and helps you move forward. Your numbers are 4, 10, 23, 26, 33, 35, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Avoid costly situations and emotional, financial or physical risks. Distance yourself from temptation and people who expect too much from you. Consider your needs and how best to make your dreams come true. It's your life; take control and make decisions that benefit you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* High energy and intelligence will lead to opportunities that increase your profile. Your ability to show compassion and discipline will encourage others to want to join your team. Don't settle for less when you can go above and beyond your expectations. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a moment to evaluate your situation and change your circumstances. Don't be too eager to give others the benefit of the doubt. Question anything that sounds fishy or doesn't fit your schedule or plans. Brightening your surroundings will boost your morale. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Learn from experience and set a course that satisfies your needs. You may not like change, but when the benefits outnumber your fears, you may want to reconsider your options. A forward move will lead to personal growth and a brighter future. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look for the positive in every situation. A change may take you by surprise but also open your eyes to many opportunities. Talk to experts and embark on a new adventure. Let go of what no longer brings you joy. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Push the pedal to the metal and journey forward. Take in what's happening around you and engage in conversations that enrich your mind and life. Consider what moves you, and pursue the people, places and prospects that make you feel good. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* How you make others feel will reflect who you are and influence how others respond. Offering a donation instead of getting involved in the nitty-gritty will not have the same effect, leaving you and those in need at a disadvantage. Embrace the experience. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change is favored. Altering your living arrangements will give you additional reserve to engage in activities that motivate and stimulate your mind. The aim is to lower stress and enjoy what life has to offer instead of maintaining something unreasonable. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Rethink your priorities and consider what's causing you grief. Be straightforward with loved ones, discuss your thoughts, clear the air and consider doable options. Lowering your overhead will ease stress and give you breathing room to make your life less cluttered. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make a difference in how you live, work and play. Think outside the box and put a wish list together. Set your sights on what's important to you, and you'll devise a plan that will be met with approval. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* If you make demands, you may not like the consequences. Think twice before you say or do something you'll regret. Look for ways to improve yourself and your life instead of putting the blame elsewhere. Take responsibility and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put your emotions on the back burner and take control. A realistic approach to the possibilities will help you find a way to improve your life and relationships with others. Speak from the heart, but maintain honesty and integrity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, resourceful and playful. You are cooperative and friendly.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2				7		
	7							2
				4	2	9	1	
		4	6				9	8
6				5		2		1
		7	8				5	6
7		8		9		6		
5			2	8		1		
1			4		6		8	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	1	7	8	2	6	5	3
7	5	6	3	1	9	4	8	2
3	2	8	6	4	5	7	1	9
6	8	5	2	3	4	9	7	1
1	4	3	9	5	7	2	6	8
2	7	9	8	6	1	3	4	5
8	6	2	5	7	3	1	9	4
9	1	7	4	2	8	5	3	6
5	3	4	1	9	6	8	2	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/2

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FAMILY LEGACIES — Solution: 8 letters

Y	R	G	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	C	H	P	E
H	R	I	U	P	Y	A	N	C	E	S	T	O	R	S
T	I	O	E	I	E	E	S	T	A	T	E	U	E	L
U	D	S	T	H	D	C	N	B	I	R	T	H	S	D
R	D	E	R	S	P	A	I	R	C	L	O	S	E	R
T	E	I	U	N	N	A	N	A	U	R	E	E	R	S
R	D	R	S	O	Ⓛ	O	T	C	L	O	R	R	V	G
A	N	O	T	Ⓘ	O	C	I	T	E	B	J	I	E	N
D	E	M	Ⓕ	T	V	B	O	T	E	L	S	P	V	I
I	T	Ⓔ	I	A	E	B	G	H	A	R	A	S	E	R
T	X	M	L	L	M	N	A	S	E	R	N	A	N	E
I	E	U	I	E	I	D	T	B	E	S	E	S	T	H
O	E	E	A	R	U	I	M	N	Y	N	I	N	S	T
N	F	L	A	L	N	E	T	E	A	C	H	O	E	A
S	S	C	T	G	M	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	N	G

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Adult, Ancestors, Aspire, Baby, Beliefs, Birth, Breed, Business, Caring, Closer, Cohesion, Culture, Estate, Events, Extended, Gatherings, Generation, Guidance, Heir, Journey, Lasting, Life, Love, Meals, Members, Memories, Parents, Patterns, Preserve, Relationships, Special, Story, Support, Teach, Time, Traditions, Trust, Truth, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Boiled

The NEW **Treasury 54** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Framber Valdez throws no-hitter as Astros beat Guardians, 2-0

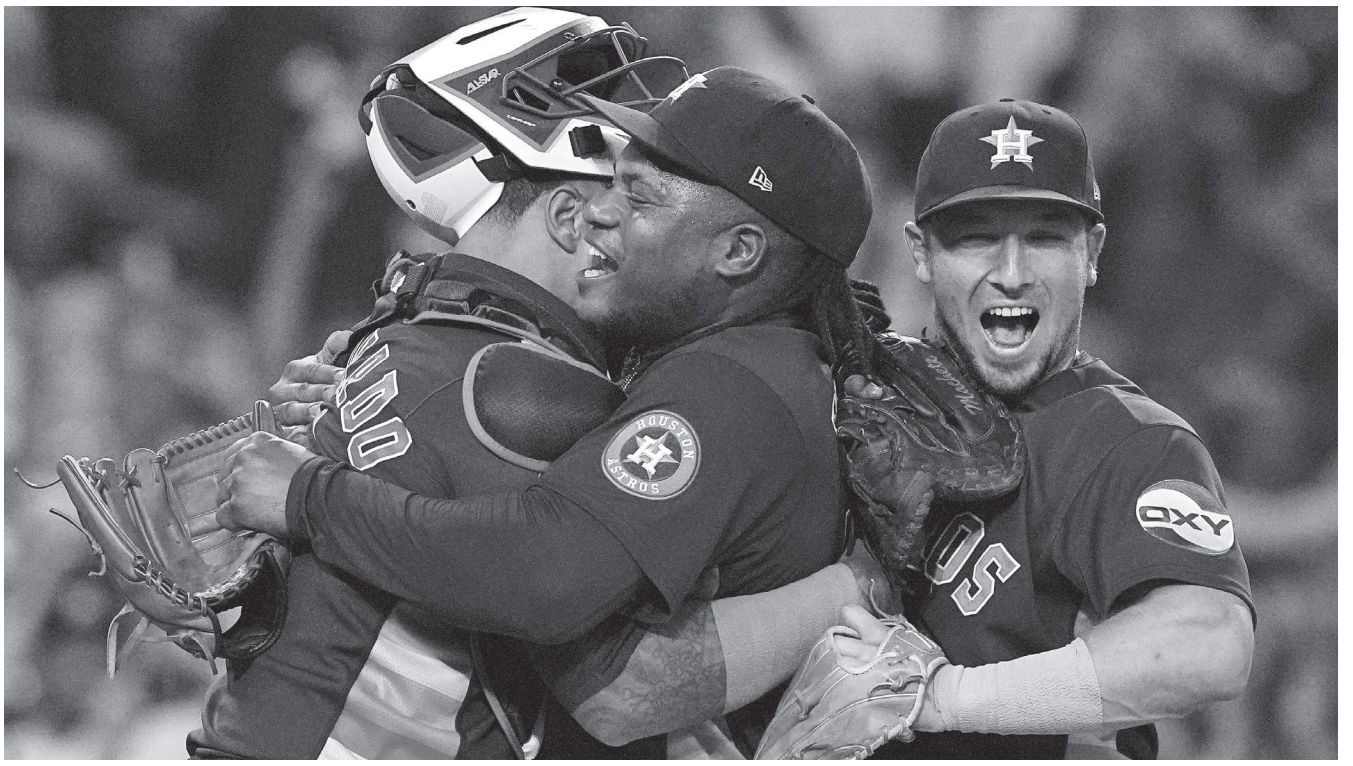
HOUSTON (AP)—Framber Valdez threw the 16th no-hitter in Houston Astros history in a 2-0 victory over the Cleveland Guardians on Tuesday night.

Valdez (9-7) allowed just one baserunner on a walk in the fifth inning, but still faced the minimum thanks to a double play in that frame. He's the first left-hander to throw a no-hitter for Houston.

Gabriel Arias grounded out to start the ninth before Myles Straw lined out to center field. Cam Gallagher then lined out to Jeremy Pena to end it and set off the celebration.

Kyle Tucker provided the offense with a two-run single in the third inning.

Cleveland's rookie starter Gavin Williams (1-3) allowed four hits and two runs in five innings for the loss.



AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Framber Valdez, center, is embraced by catcher Martin Maldonado and third baseman Alex Bregman after throwing a no-hitter against the Cleveland Guardians, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, in Houston.

BRAVES 5, ANGELS 1

ATLANTA (AP)—Michael Harris II ended a homer drought with two blasts, including a go-ahead shot in the fifth, Spencer Strider added to his majors-leading total with nine strikeouts and the Atlanta Braves beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-1 on Tuesday night.

Strider (12-3) allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings in his first victory since July 8. He has nine or more strikeouts in 17 of 22 starts, giving him 208 for the season.

Patrick Sandoval (6-8) allowed two runs on three hits and four walks in five innings for Los Angeles.

Harris hit his first homer since July 3 by lining an 0-2 pitch from Sandoval 445 feet to right field with one out in the fifth.

The Angels began the day three games behind the final AL wild card and 4 1/2 games behind AL West leader Texas.

ORIOLES 13, BLUE JAYS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Anthony Santander hit his second career grand slam, Gunnar Henderson homered for the second straight game and AL-leading Baltimore remained unbeaten in Toronto this season.

Santander went 3 for 4 with a walk and four RBIs. He cleared the bases with his 19th home run, a deep drive off Nate Pearson in the eighth.

Henderson went 3 for 5 with two RBIs, and Ryan Mountcastle reached base four times and drove in two runs as the Orioles won for the fourth time in five games and improved their league-best record to 66-41.

Right-hander Kyle Bradish (7-6) allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings, snapping a two-start losing streak. Bradish walked one and struck out seven.

Blue Jays catcher Danny Jansen hit a two-run home run and Brandon Belt added a solo shot, but Toronto fell to 1-7 against the Orioles, including 0-5 north of the border.

RAYS 5, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Zach Eflin pitched six shutout innings of three-hit ball to become the American League's first 12-game winner, Randy Arozarena hit a two-run homer off Carlos Rodón and Tampa Bay beat New York.

Yandy Díaz also connected for the Rays, who won their third straight game and have gone deep six times in the last two nights at Yankee Stadium.

Eflin (12-6) set a career high for wins, surpassing his previous best in 2018 for Philadelphia. After leaving his previous start due to knee discomfort, Eflin struck out five and walked none. He got nine outs on the ground in his fourth scoreless start this season.

DODGERS 7, ATHLETICS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lance Lynn gave up three home runs in his Dodgers debut, Mookie Betts hit his 28th homer and Los Angeles earned its 60th victory of the season.

Traded last week by the Chicago White Sox, Lynn retired the first seven batters he faced. But he soon surrendered his 29th, 30th and 31st homers of the season.

Lynn (7-9) allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings. The right-hander struck out seven and walked one while eating up precious innings for a team that needs its starters to go deep to preserve the bullpen.

Kiké Hernández's three-run double highlighted a four-run fourth. Freddie Freeman singled leading off before Ken Waldichuk (2-7) struck out Will Smith and Amed Rosario.

Waldichuk gave up four runs and one hit in 3 2/3 innings, struck out five and walked three.

RANGERS 2, WHITE SOX 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Andrew Heaney struck out 11 without a walk while throwing two-hit ball over six innings, Mitch Garver and Adolis Garcia hit solo homers and the AL West-leading Texas shut out Chicago.

Josh Sborz and Aroldis Chapman each pitched an inning before Will Smith's perfect ninth for his 18th save in 20 chances to wrap up the Rangers' eighth shutout this season.

Garver put the Rangers ahead with his sixth homer when he went deep off White Sox rookie right-hander Jesse Scholtens (1-4) in the fifth inning of the game that took only one hour, 58 minutes to play. Scholtens struck out six, walked one and hit a batter over his six innings. The starter and two relievers limited Texas to four hits.

CUBS 20, REDS 9

CHICAGO (AP)—Dansby Swanson homered twice and drove in five runs, and Chicago pounded Cincinnati.

Mike Tauchman also went deep and finished with four RBIs as Chicago won for the ninth time in 11 games. The Cubs bashed seven homers while also setting season highs for runs and hits with 21.

Jeimer Candelario went 4 for 5 and scored two runs in his first game since he was reacquired by Chicago in a trade with Washington on Monday. Candelario also made his big league debut with the Cubs in 2016.

Swanson hit a three-run homer in Chicago's five-run first against Ben Lively (4-7). He added a two-run drive in the fourth for his 15th homer this season, helping the Cubs build a 13-2 lead.

GIANTS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Patrick Bailey picked off Geraldo Perdomo at first base for the final out in San Francisco's victory over Arizona.

Perdomo singled off Ryan Walker leading off the inning. Sean Manaea, signed in the offseason to be part of San Francisco's rotation, came on and got Ketel Marte to foul out and Corbin Carroll to fly out.

Manaea made three pitches to Arizona clean-up hitter Christian Walker before Bailey fired over to first to nab Perdomo. The Diamondbacks challenged the call that was upheld on review, giving Manaea his first career save.

Walker (4-0) retired seven batters and allowed two hits for the victory.

Marte hit his 100th career home run for the Diamondbacks.

LaMonte Wade Jr. broke out of a prolonged slump with two hits, including a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning for the Giants. Wade, who has been battling a sore back recently and was in a 1-for-18 funk, singled off Zac Gallen in the third, walked in the fifth, then hit his 10th home run off reliever Miguel Castro (5-5).

PHILLIES 3, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Nick Castellanos slugged a tiebreaking two-run homer in the ninth inning to rally Philadelphia past Miami.

Castellanos, who has been mired in an 8-for-68 skid in the second half of the season, drilled a slider from Marlins closer David Robertson (4-3) over the wall in left-center to punctuate the three-run outburst in the inning. Earlier in the ninth, Bryce Harper tied the game with an RBI double.

Philadelphia's Gregoy Soto (3-4) pitched a scoreless eighth and Seranthony Dominguez closed with a perfect ninth for his first save.

BREWERS 6, NATIONALS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Brice Turang and Joey Wiemer hit consecutive two-run singles as part of a four-run fourth inning, and Milwaukee defeated Washington to snap a four-game skid.

Freddy Peralta (7-8) earned his second victory since May 21, allowing three runs in six innings and strikeout out seven. Devin Williams pitched the ninth to earn his 27th save in 29 chances.

RED SOX 6, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP)—Alex Verdugo hit a two-run homer, Reese McGuire added his first of the season fresh off the injured list, and Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

Verdugo's homer in the fifth inning was his eighth of the season and gave Boston a 5-1 lead. McGuire followed an inning later with a solo shot into the right field seats.

Boston starter Brayan Bello (8-6) worked out of an early jam and managed to get through six innings. Seattle had a 1-0 lead three batters into the game after Eugenio Suarez's RBI single, but the Mariners were unable to add on despite having the bases loaded with no outs.

Seattle threatened in the eighth with runners at second and third and one out against reliever Josh Winckowski, but Mike Ford and Josh Rojas struck out to end the inning. Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his 24th save.

TWINS 3, CARDINALS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Donovan Solano hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the seventh inning and Pablo Lopez tossed six effective innings as AL Central-leading Minnesota snapped a five-game skid with a win over St. Louis.

Minnesota was coming off a three-game sweep to the Kansas City Royals and having lost the last two games of a three-game set against the Seattle Mariners. The Twins hold a two-game lead in the division over Cleveland, which was no-hit in Houston on Tuesday.

ROYALS 7, METS 6, 10 INNINGS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Josh Walker balked home the winning run in the 10th inning and Kansas City Royals rallied past New York for its season-best fourth straight victory.

Hours after the retooling Mets traded star pitcher Justin Verlander and two other players to cap a stunning deadline selloff, they blew a 6-4 lead provided by rookie Francisco Álvarez's two-run homer in the top of the 10th.

PIRATES 4, TIGERS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Rookie Liover Peguero hit a two-run home run and Johan Oviedo pitched seven strong innings to lead Pittsburgh over the slumping Detroit.

Oviedo (5-11), who allowed one run while scattering six hits, striking out five and walking two, has won back-to-back starts after losing eight consecutive decisions.

David Bednar pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 22nd save to close out the Pirates' fourth win in five games.

Matt Manning (3-3) remained winless in his last four starts. He gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings, struck out six and did not walk a batter.

PADRES 8, ROCKIES 5

DENVER (AP)—Juan Soto homered twice and drove in four runs, helping San Diego beat Colorado.

Ha-Seong Kim and Trent Grisham added RBI singles in the ninth inning. Fernando Tatis Jr. drove in a pair of runs with a double and a bases loaded forceout for San Diego.

Pedro Avila, recalled late last month for his second stint with the Padres this season, went the first four innings and allowed one run on five hits. He struck out seven and walked three. Robert Suárez (1-0) got the win with an inning of scoreless relief and Josh Hader recorded two outs and his 26th save.

Ryan McMahon had a three-run homer among his two hits, Elias Diaz had three doubles and Brendan Rodgers knocked in the Rockies' last run in the ninth inning. Jurickson Profar also had three hits.

Relieved Americans escape and move on at the Women's World Cup

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — The Americans came into the Women's World Cup as the two-time defending champions and tournament favorites.

By the end of the group stage, they are relieved to still be in the competition.

"That was stressful. I was like (expletive)," said United States star Megan Rapinoe, using a curse word to describe her emotions after the team squeezed into the knockout stage with a 0-0 draw against Portugal on Tuesday.

Had Portugal substitute Ana Capeta's shot gone into the net rather than hit the post and rebounded out in stoppage time, the Americans might have been eliminated.

As it is, they are advancing in second place behind the Netherlands.

A blast of relief ran through every American player, coach and fan in Eden Park when the final whistle sounded.

While they may not be playing their best at the moment, the U.S. players were quick to point out after the game that they are, in fact, still playing.

"We're not happy with the performance we put out there, but at the same time we're moving on," Alex Morgan said. "This isn't the first time in my career that we've moved on second in the group."

AP

United States' Alex Morgan, right, reacts after a missed shot at goal with Portugal's Diana Gomes during the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between Portugal and the United States at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023.

The last time the United States didn't win its group was 2011, when the Americans finished second to Sweden before eventually losing to Japan on penalty kicks in the final.

This time around, the back-to-back defending champions scored just four goals during the three-game group stage. And the three goals were scored in their tournament opener against Vietnam.

The 2019 United States team more than tripled that number in its group-stage opener against Thailand, which it won 13-0 in a record for goals in a match at a Women's World Cup.

"We trust our forwards, we trust our players to get it done. We haven't in the group stage — and that's on us," defender Julie Ertz said. "Once it gets to the knockout stages, you kind of become a different team. It's just do or die at that point."

Part of the Americans' problem has been injuries.

U.S. forward Mallory Swanson missed the tournament with a torn patellar tendon suffered in April in a friendly versus Ireland. Prior to that, Swanson was the United States' leading scorer, and netted four of the team's five goals in this year's SheBelieves Cup.

But on Tuesday night, the players weren't making excuses.

"I think we can create better chances to get a goal," forward Lynn Williams said. "But at the end of the day, it's one of those things where you turn the page and you have to learn and grow really quick because you have no time to dwell on this."

The United States will likely play Sweden in the round of 16 on Sunday in Melbourne, Australia.

Sweden currently sits undefeated on top of Group G. In order for the date between the United States and Sweden to fall through, Sweden would have to lose to Argentina, and Italy would have to beat South Africa by a large margin to overcome the current 10-goal goal difference between the two teams.

The Swedes are familiar foes for the Americans, and another matchup would be the seventh time the two countries have played in the Women's World Cup. Sweden beat the United States 3-0 in the group stage of the Tokyo Olympics.

"I feel like we always play them. We know them so well," Ertz said. "They've been great this tournament, so I'm excited. You always want to play against the best and I'm so excited to play them and show them what we have."

Lauren James scores twice as England routs China, 6-1

SYDNEY (AP)—Only VAR prevented England's Lauren James from scoring a hat trick against China at the Women's World Cup.

China certainly didn't know how to stop the inspirational forward as she scored two goals and provided three assists in a 6-1 rout on Tuesday at Adelaide, South Australia.

"She did special things today. ... she flows over the pitch," England coach Sarina Wiegman said.

James' impressive performance should be a warning for future opponents of the threat she poses at this World Cup, with England entering the knockout stage with three straight wins.

The Chelsea forward makes it seem so easy. James scored with her right and and with her left. One goal was a powerfully controlled strike from the edge of the area and the other was a clinical volley from a tight angle.

"It's what dreams are made of," James said. "I felt free. Whether I'm on the wing or in the middle, I'm happy to be playing and contributing to goals."

James thought she had another memorable goal after expertly firing into the corner from distance in first-half stoppage time. But the effort was disallowed because her teammate Lucy Bronze had been in an offside position during the build up.

"It was frustrating, but those things happen," James said. "I'm just looking forward to the next one."

That could mean bad news for Nigeria, which is England's next opponent in the round of 16 in Brisbane on Monday.

James appears almost unstoppable, whether it be scoring goals or created chances for others.

After scoring six minutes into her first start at the tournament against Denmark, she produced an even better performance against China as England finished atop Group D with three straight wins.

As well as her two goals, she provided assists for Alessia Russo, Lauren Hemp and substitute Chloe Kelly.

Rachel Daly got the European champion's other goal at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium, and China's Wang Shuang pulled one back from the penalty spot.

In a performance of rare brilliance, there were so many stand out moments for James. But the control and precision of her left-foot volley in the 65th minute, taken with her instep, was special.

"I've known LJ for a long time, played with her at Manchester United, so I've known the talent she had," England midfielder Katie Zelem said. "So there is no surprise she is playing this well at the tournament."

England equaled its biggest-ever World Cup win, matching the margin against Argentina in 2007.

The Lionesses also set a World Cup record by scoring in 16 consecutive games at the tournament.

China's worst-ever loss at the tournament means it failed to advance from the group stage for the first time at a Women's World Cup.

Denmark finished second to England in the group, advancing after a 2-0 win over Haiti.

England just had to avoid defeat to be guaranteed a place in the knockout stage after back-to-back wins against Haiti and Denmark.

Even with a 100% winning start there had still been questions over England's performances, while a knee injury for Keira Walsh raised concerns about how coach Wiegman would replace one of her key players.

While the loss of Walsh is a setback for England, the emergence of James has made her one of the stars so far in the tournament.

She was the provider as Russo got England off to a flying start in the fourth minute. With her first goal of the tournament, Russo controlled James' header and fired low past goalkeeper Zhu Yu.

Hemp scored England's second in the 26th, with James the provider again after swift counterattack.

James struck from the edge of the box in the 41st and, after Wang scored from the spot in the 57th, she provided the moment of match with a volley into the top corner.

James was the provider again with a perfectly-weighted pass beyond China's defense for Kelly to score in the 77th. Daley rounded off the scoring in the 84th.

"I said before the game we had to do things a little different than we did before. We did really well it shows how adaptive we are on the pitch," said Wiegman. "We expected China to press high because they had to win to go through. But they just stayed in shape. They didn't expect us to play this way and they didn't find a solution."

Denmark beats Haiti set up round of 16 encounter with Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP)–Denmark advanced to the round of 16 of the Women's World Cup for the first time since 1995 after beating Haiti 2-0 on Tuesday in its last group-stage match. The win sets up a round of 16 matchup against tournament co-host Australia in Sydney next Monday.

Denmark's goals came courtesy of a penalty kick by Pernille Harder in the 21st minute and a calm finish by Sanne Troelsgaard in stoppage time. Haiti exits the tournament without any goals or points to show for its World Cup debut despite pushing Group D winner England all the way in its opener.

A handball from Haiti's Dayana Pierre-Louis led to a penalty kick for Denmark in the 21st minute. Star forward Pernille Harder sent the keeper the wrong way to score her 71st career international goal. It was the third penalty Haiti conceded in as many games in Australia.

Sanne Troelsgaard put the game out of reach in the 10th minute of stoppage time with a composed finish after a Danish counterattack.

Despite its efforts, Haiti was unable to create many scoring opportunities. Denmark limited Haiti to two shots on target, earning its second shutout of the group stage.

With the win, Denmark placed second to England in Group D and booked its place in the knockout stage. The Danes, who are making their first World Cup appearance since 2007, will face co-host Australia in the round of 16 in Sydney.

Denmark will play Group B winner Australia in Sydney on Monday, Aug. 7 in the round of 16. Haiti is out of the tournament after finishing last in Group D.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just 4 Fun undefeated so far in BASA

Team Just 4 Fun is having way too much fun as they are currently undefeated after the fourth week of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Some of the players from Just 4 Fun are currently in the undefeated Saipan Baseball League team Cardinals and have carried their winning streak into the softball league as they defeated Ready Mix, 15-5 after just five innings of work.

Ready Mix did deal the first blow as they scored four runs in the first inning with a two RBI home run from Bam Ayuyu and Se Lizama, but Just 4 Fun flexed their top of the lineup power at their turn with the bat.

LEIGH GASES
Just 4 Fun's Roy Salas is tagged out at third base during their game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last July 23 at the DanDan Softball Field.

Jonah Flores, Poland Masaharu, Nate Camacho, Tony Salas, Ping Santos, and Brian Camacho scored six runs consecutively before three outs were made.

Only one more run was made by Ready Mix in the third inning, while Just 4 Fun added eight more before the game was called off short via run-mercy ruling.

No Choice 19, Dat's It 15

No Choice came back to life in the last inning and left Dat's It in the dust, 19-15.

After a nine-run first inning, plus one run in the second, No Choice seemed like they had the win in the bag. But that wasn't it for Dat's It as they came back and scored four in the first and then two in the second for only a three-run deficit.

No Choice couldn't score in the next three innings and Dat's It capitalized as they scored five in the fourth inning to take the lead by one, 11-10.

Then, No Choice's Jeff Isaac and Rickson Robonei hit a home run each that brought in six runs, and all of a sudden, they had the lead again. No Choice scored four more for good measure in the last inning and it was enough of a lead to win as Dat's It could only score four more runs.

Saipal 14, Seaweed Vibes 10

Saipal vibed past the Seaweed Vibes early in the game and won, 14-10.

Four runs were scored by Saipal in the first inning, then three more came in the next, while Seaweed Vibes scored just two.

Seaweed Vibes went scoreless for three innings until a two-run fifth inning and another three two-run sixth inning from home runs by Joe Lizama and Benwachi Taisakan.

By the last inning, Saipal had already scored their 14 runs and Seaweed Vibes were down by seven. Seaweed Vibes tried to rally in the last inning but scored only three runs and were handed the loss.

Aimeliik Bat Boys 3, TuTuRamZ

The Aimeliik Bat Boys slipped past TuTuRamZ by just one run, 3-2.

After two back-to-back home runs from the TuTuRamZ in the fourth inning and a home run by the Bat Boys' Harry Nakamura, Aimeliik took the lead and the win in the fifth inning.

Ray Saralu and Nokki Saralu made Aimeliik's two runs for the 3-2 win as the TuTuRamZ could not reply in the last innings.

No Excuse 23, Team Mac 0

No Excuse shutout Team Mac, 23-0, in a mercy run-ruled game.

In the first inning alone, No Excuse scored nine runs from back-to-back RBI hits up and down the lineup.

They then scored 14 runs in the next four innings as No Excuse pitcher Byron Kaipat shut down Team Mac in order.

PayDayHao 16, Blue Jays 12

PayDayHao won over the Blue Jays, 16-12.

It was like a homerun derby as PayDayHao scored eight of their batters hit home runs.

Meanwhile, the Blue Jays tied up the game in the sixth inning, 10-10, but fell short by four runs as they couldn't make a comeback in the last inning after PayDayHao scored six runs for the lead and the eventual win.

Kebruka 8, Mamaaw 6

Kebruka defeated Mamaaw, in a close 8-6 game.

Heading into the last inning, the game was tied at six apiece, but a go-ahead two-run home run in the bottom of the last inning from Nosh Palacios sealed the win for Kebruka.

Pro golfer named Marianas sports ambassador

Professional golfer Park Bo-Kyeom was named an official sports ambassador by the Marianas Visitors Authority last week to help promote her childhood home, The Marianas.

Park was the winner of the 9th Gyochon 1991 Ladies Open in Seoul on May 7, 2023. She first started playing golf as an elementary school student on Saipan, which she says is like a second home to her.

Park joined the Korean Ladies Professional Golf Association in 2017 and is currently ranked 25th on the KLPGA after winning her first career title at the 9th Gyochon 1991 Ladies Open, based on the total amount of cash prize she has won at competitions. Park first started playing golf during her six years living on Saipan, where she attended and graduated at Whispering Palms School. Encouraged by her mother, who was also an avid golfer at the time, the golfer quickly fell in love with playing golf in Saipan and returned to Korea in 2013 to prepare for her career.

MVA
Professional golfer Park Bo-Kyeom, right, receives an appointment as a sports ambassador of The Marianas by the Marianas Visitors Authority on June 24, 2023, in Seoul, Korea, Presenting the appointment is Hong Chan-Ho, head of the MVA's Korea office.

"Saipan is my second home, the place that shaped and nurtured my dream of becoming a golfer as a child," said Park, 25. "Being associated with The Marianas…makes me feel like I've found my second home again. As a sports ambassador, I hope to be inspired to do better in the future."

Saipan is a golf destination with oceanfront golf courses and a number of outdoor golf ranges that offer reasonable fares. Several golf courses on Saipan—the 36-hole LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, the 18-hole Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, and the 18-hole Kingfisher Golf Links—all set against the stunning backdrop of the western Pacific Ocean.

"We are honored to have Park Bo-Kyeom, who discovered her golfing talent on Saipan as a child and is now a successful professional golfer, as our sports ambassador for the Marianas," said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim. "We look forward to working with her to promote Saipan as a golf destination."

Park recently finished 10th at the BC Card Hankyung Ladies Cup in late June, showing that she has been consistent since her first win, and is training hard for the second half of the year. Her main sponsor is Angang Development.

There are a total of 34 weekly flights between Korea and Saipan, operated by Jeju Air, T'Way Air, and Asiana Airlines. The Incheon-Saipan route is operated 30 times a week by all three airlines, while the Busan-Saipan route is operated four times a week by Jeju Air. ***(PR)***

FERRER

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High School student won his fifth consecutive race.

His 50 points gave him 250 points total for the season, while Matthew Guerrero and Christian Camacho came in second and third with 40 points apiece.

For the season, Camacho is second with 212 points. Frankie Sablan is third with 164 points.

Aric Cruz, meanwhile, won the July race in the Intermediate Class with 47 points. He nipped Corry Pangelinan in Heat 2 to take the race as the latter also wound up with 147 points. Ethan Yumul was third with 38 points.

For the year, Pangelinan is just 3 points short of a perfect season so far with 147 points, while Yumul is second with 178 points and Cruz's 157 points is good for third.

In the Peewee ATV Class, Nakoa Torres was the lone rider and won the division without a fight for 50 points to add to his division-lading 238 points for 2023. Rockson Cabrera has 100 points for the season.

Bentley Koshiro raced in the Peewee I Class and won also without competition for 50 points and now has 150 points for the year.

Elleayah Cruz continued to hold steady in the Mini I Class and took the checkered flag with 50 points. She also leads the division for the season with 200 points. Kaleb Reyes was the only other rider last Sunday and got 44 points for finishing second.

In the Mini ATV Class, Anella Igitol trudged along and earned 50 points for her solo ride in the division. She also leads the category with 194 points, followed by Kimason Cabrera's 90 points and Francesca Yumul's 67 points.

The results of other divisions in the July edition of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

U23

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Pablo, meanwhile, will be making her second Marianas Football Cup appearance after debuting in the event with Borja in 2017 in Guam. She is excited to play in her first home game for the Marianas Football Cup and believes the team, though very young, have shown significant improvement the past two years, especially on the technical side.

"This improvement was evident when we played in the Marianas Soccer League last season and we just have to work on those positive aspects of our game come match time against Guam to be able to keep the Marianas Football Cup title here," Pablo said.

Koo shared Pablo's observation, noting how the players have shown strong commitment to the program.

"They've been training very hard and are committed to the national team. We also have players returning from college and their leadership and experience are a big help to the team. The team is also showing good chemistry and that's very important," Koo said.

After the match between the NMI U23 and Guam U23 women's teams at 5:30, the men's crews of the two islands will collide in the 8:30pm game tonight. This year's Marianas Football Cup is supported by Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, USA Fanter, Triple J, IT&E, Quality Distributors, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Island Apparel. ***(PR)***

JUNIOR

From page 20

sixth inning from a run by Joel Deleon Guerrero.

The Falcons then could not get past the Junior Nationals' pitching staff as they went scoreless for the next six innings. In contrast, the Junior Nationals ended the game with two more runs scored as they doubled the Falcons' score, 6-3.

After their three runs by the third inning, the Falcons only registered four more hits throughout the game.

If it didn't rain last night, the semifinals would've been between the undefeated Cardinals and Brewers, which is to be reported in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

The three-game championship series is set to be scheduled for next week.

Framber Valdez throws no-hitter as Astros beat Guardians, 2-0.

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Sports

Just 4 Fun undefeated so far in BASA.

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Junior Nationals take finals spot in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
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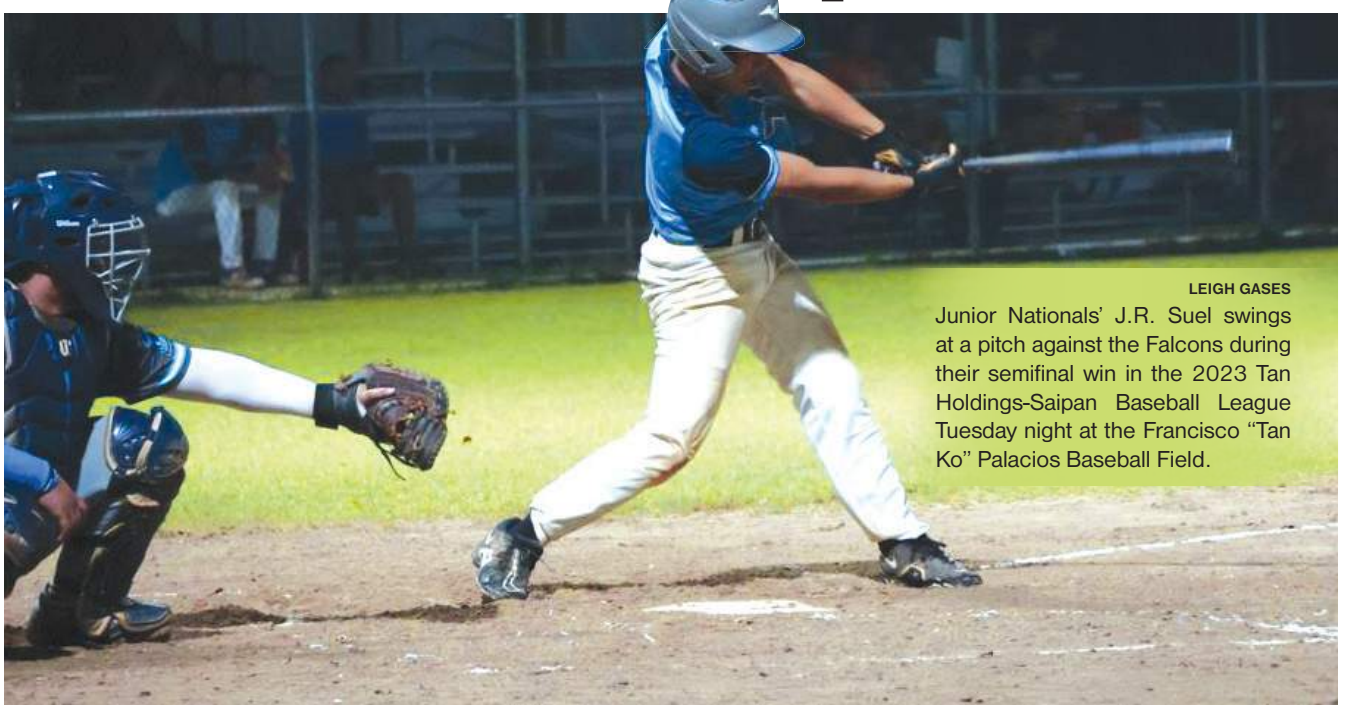
REPORTER



LEIGH GASES
Junior Nationals' J.R. Suel swings at a pitch against the Falcons during their semifinal win in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

August was welcomed with a super full moon that hung high in the sky, and on the ground, a semifinals battle raged between the tied No. 2 teams—the Junior Nationals and the Falcons.

The Junior Nationals, with the bright moon in the backdrop, asserted their dominance against the Falcons, 6-3, in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Falcons struck first when they scored two runs in the second inning as Benen Iguel led it off with a single, then came home on an RBI single by Ian Norita. Norita then scored after he stole second base and went home after a Junior Nationals' fielding error.

Before they could do more damage though, Junior Nationals pitcher Benji Palacios stopped the bleeding right there. The Junior Nationals then picked up their pitcher as they tied it up, 2-2 in their next at-bat.

Justin Camacho scored the first run then Jylon Sablan came home after an RBI base hit by Joell Borja.

The Falcons bounced back in the third inning from a run by Henry Aguon Jr. to retake the lead. However, the Junior Nationals had more spring in their bats as they tied it up in the fifth inning from a run by J.R. Suel then took the lead, 4-3 in the

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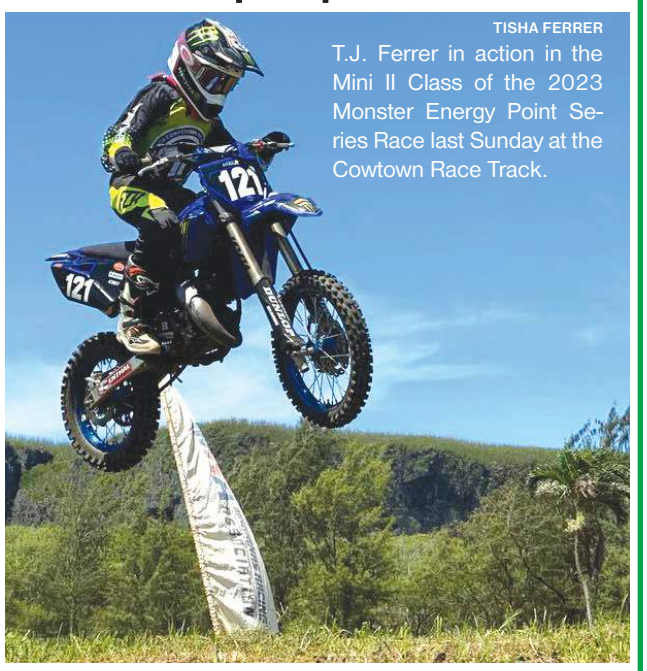
Ferrer takes pole position in Mini II



TISHA FERRER
T.J. Ferrer in action in the Mini II Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

T.J. Ferrer won a second consecutive monthly race in the Mini II Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 13-year-old incoming seventh grader at Tanapag Elementary School topped the July race of the Marianas Racing Association with 47 points, edging Billie Inabo Pangelinan in Heat 2 to win the competition. Pangelinan also got 47 points for second place, while Nanako Celis settled for third place with 40 points.

In the race for the 2023 Mini II championship plate, Ferrer has taken over pole position with 218 points, followed by Pangelinan and Celis with 214 points each.

Ferrer said despite the surprisingly dry course considering it rained the whole time last week, he was able to win after "staying the course and kept pushing" for the lead.

"I barely trained through the summer but I gained the confidence on Sunday to push my hardest."

He then thanked his family and the Trench Tech Racing Team for their support in his motocross career.

"My Dad and all of the people in the MRA have been helping me along the way," added Ferrer.

In the Novice Class, it's so far been a perfect 2023 season for Vicente "Beng" Palacios after the 14-year-old Marianas

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U23 women's team eyes extending win streak

The NMI U23 Women's National Team is hoping to make it three in a row when it faces Guam in the Marianas Football Cup that will kick off today at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The NMI female squad won the last staging of the Marianas Football Cup before the pandemic hit, as it shut down Guam, 3-0, in 2019 in their U19 division game at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo. In 2018, when Saipan hosted the Marianas Cup at the newly-built NMISTC, the NMI U19 women's crew also prevailed, escaping with a 3-2 victory.

Guine Borja was part of the 2018 and 2019 winning teams and will be making her fourth appearance in the Marianas Football Cup—the most by any NMI female player—as she also suited up in the 2017 edition of the competition. Joining Borja on the NMI U23 Women's National Team's roster are her co-captain Dianne Pablo, Mia Abuan, Bernadette Horey, Aubrey and Audrey Castro, Khristelle Itaas, Jannah Casarino, Katrina Costales, Summer Manahane, Kaithlyn Chavez, Dehesa Mendiola, Jerlyn Castillo, Pia Ngewakl, Rizza Relucio, Tamia Hix, Sophia Quintos, Stephanie Flores, and Kelsey McClellan. Olympian Luam Khen Koo is the team's head coach and will be assisted by Jimmy Tang, while Angie Ito and Emma Lee are the team and assistant team managers, respectively. Hazel Mabasa is the team's physiotherapist.

Asked if she is feeling the pressure of delivering the NMI's its third victory in a row and doing it in front of the home crowd, Borja said the team viewed the pair of matches against Guam as an honor more than a pressure. Borja and company will duel Guam U23 women's team today, Aug. 3 at 5:30pm, while their second match will take place on Aug. 5, this Saturday at 8:30pm.

"It's always an honor to play for the NMI, especially if you are playing at home and have more crowd support. As for pressure, I don't feel that much because I have confidence in my teammates and we have prepared enough to go through every challenge in the game. That's the beauty of a team game, you know you can count on your teammates and work together to achieve your goals," said Borja, who plays for Louisiana Christian University in the collegiate ranks and joined the team's training sessions this summer.

After having played in the previous three editions of the Marianas Football Cup and adding her experience in the collegiate league, Borja acknowledged being entrusted with the leadership role on the NMI U23 Women's National Team.

"The focus now is not the personal goal, but more of team goal, on how my leadership can keep the positive energy of the team," Borja added.

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